

Senate Resolution 975

By: Senator Wilkinson of the 50th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Georgia's Court Appointed Special Advocates for their hard work and
- 2 dedication to improving the lives of Georgia's children; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is an organization
- 4 established to develop and support affiliate programs that provide volunteer advocacy for
- 5 abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings; and
- 6 WHEREAS, since its founding, 47 affiliate CASA programs in Georgia have been
- 7 established, and over 22,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for over 110,000 children
- 8 throughout the State of Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, last year alone, 2,181 CASA volunteers advocated for 9,709 children, over
- 10 8,600 of whom were in our state's legal custody; and
- 11 WHEREAS, CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making
- 12 sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to
- 13 be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving
- 14 family; and
- 15 WHEREAS, a special advocate is a deeply committed, specially trained community
- 16 volunteer who works within the child welfare system and is appointed by the juvenile court
- 17 judge to provide individualized attention, bring urgency to a child's needs throughout his or
- 18 her time in state custody, and offer consistency and continuity by helping to connect
- 19 information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other stakeholders;
- 20 and
- 21 WHEREAS, as an external partner, CASA maximizes community resources and support for
- 22 children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased community

23 involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated,  
24 compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis; and

25 WHEREAS, we are proud to recognize CASA volunteers in Georgia for giving selflessly of  
26 their time and talents to advocate for the best interests of children in juvenile court  
27 dependency proceedings and also commend volunteer board members and the staff of  
28 Georgia CASA and the affiliate CASA programs for their countless contributions made on  
29 behalf of Georgia's children.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
31 commend Georgia's Court Appointed Special Advocates for their hard work and dedication  
32 to improving the lives of Georgia's children.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
35 press.