

## Senate Resolution 996

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Unterman of the 45th, Millar of the 40th, Hill of the 4th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 8, 2016, as Children's Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the future of Georgia depends on the ability of today's children to grow into  
3 productive workers, loving parents, engaged citizens, and visionary leaders; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia has made significant gains in recent years, including an increasing  
5 percentage of Georgia's high school students graduating on time and a reduction in the  
6 number of youth detained or incarcerated; and
- 7 WHEREAS, despite this progress, Georgia's children continue to struggle to meet high  
8 standards of health, education, family stability, and employability and to compete nationally  
9 and internationally; and
- 10 WHEREAS, 27 percent of children in Georgia live in poverty, and 63 percent of students  
11 qualify for free and reduced-price lunches; and
- 12 WHEREAS, all children, especially children in foster care, with disabilities or health  
13 challenges, or without family guidance, need the appropriate resources and support from the  
14 local community and state to achieve success; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Georgia state agencies, including the Departments of Community Health,  
16 Public Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Early Care and Learning,  
17 Education, Human Services, and Juvenile Justice; the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and  
18 the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, are setting higher goals for improving the lives  
19 of children and collaborating more closely to achieve their goals; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children, a nonprofit organization, has convened  
21 child-serving and child advocacy organizations for Children's Day at the state capitol to

22 encourage lawmakers to recognize the impact of public policy and programs on all aspects  
23 of the well-being of children; and

24 WHEREAS, the Culinary Arts students from Lanier Charter Career Academy in Gainesville,  
25 Georgia, have prepared a healthy snack to share with the guests at Children's Day at the state  
26 capitol to demonstrate skills learned in the Hospitality & Tourism Career Pathway and  
27 emphasize the value of healthy eating; and

28 WHEREAS, the goal of Children's Day is to increase the commitment of all Georgians to  
29 children and children's issues by providing current research, information, and policy  
30 suggestions through a celebratory daylong event at the state capitol.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 recognize March 8, 2016, as Children's Day at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for  
35 Georgia's Children.