

House Resolution 1593

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89th, Hugley of the 136th, Mosby of the 83rd, and Jackson of the 128th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending CHRIS Kids for its 35 year commitment and leadership in
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids promotes trauma informed best practices in Georgia and is
4 committed to helping children, young adults, and families with behavioral health challenges
5 assume responsibility for their lives, develop the skills they need to navigate life's challenges,
6 and build natural support systems so that they can become contributing members of our local
7 communities; and

8 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids was founded by the Junior League of Atlanta in 1981 to fill a gap
9 in services for children with severe mental health needs in foster care who did not need to
10 be institutionalized and who could remain in the community if provided adequate behavioral
11 health services and support; and

12 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids opened the first program in Georgia in 1986 to serve youth aging
13 out of foster care and they opened the first program in Georgia to serve homeless youth in
14 2000; and

15 WHEREAS, today, CHRIS Kids offers an array of highly effective, trauma informed
16 counseling, support services, and housing that are innovative, inclusive, and individualized
17 through its various programs; and

18 WHEREAS, the CHRIS Counseling Center provides school based mental health services for
19 children and their families in more than 20 schools in the metro public and charter school
20 systems; and

21 WHEREAS, the CHRIS Counseling Center employs more than 36 percent of the certified
22 trauma therapists in the State of Georgia and utilizes more than 18 different evidenced based
23 therapies; and

24 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids services to children and families result in 100 percent of children
25 being kept safe from harm, 90 percent of families strengthened, and 78 percent of designated
26 juvenile felonies did not re-offend and successfully completed probation over the past two
27 years; and

28 WHEREAS, through the CHRIS Training Institute, CHRIS Kids provides training to other
29 nonprofits, the community, and state personnel in best clinical practices, trauma informed
30 care, child sexual abuse prevention, and anti-bullying to expand the scope of healing in the
31 community; and

32 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids is an innovator, convener, and collaborator seeking to avoid
33 duplication and leverage its core competencies in partnership with others; and

34 WHEREAS, former clients living across the United States include servicemen and
35 servicewomen, IT professionals, entrepreneurs, actors, musicians, and employees in all
36 aspects of the business community; and

37 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids proves year after year that when children, young adults, and
38 families are provided services, support, acceptance, and accountability, they can succeed in
39 becoming productive citizens who can, and do, end cycles of intergenerational abuse,
40 neglect, and failure in their lives.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body recognize and commend CHRIS Kids for its 35 year commitment
43 and leadership in Georgia in helping more than 50,000 people with behavioral health
44 challenges develop the resiliency skills they need to navigate life's challenges and become
45 contributing members of our local communities.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
48 CHRIS Kids.