

Senate Resolution 221

By: Senator Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Belisa Urbina, the founder of Ser Familia; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Belisa Urbina founded Ser Familia, Inc., the leading program in Georgia that
3 provides coordinated multi-disciplinary family services to Latinos as a response to the lack
4 of resources for Latino families in the areas of family support services and mental health
5 counseling, domestic violence prevention and crisis management; and

6 WHEREAS, through culturally relevant and sensitive programs the organization guides
7 teens, couples, parents and families to be strong and healthy, and of value to each other and
8 society; and

9 WHEREAS, through its 14 years of history, Ser Familia has served more than 30,800
10 Latinos; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2005, moved by the plea of some Latino teens, the organization created
12 "Renovacion Juvenil", which serves Latino teens ages 13 to 18 years old; and

13 WHEREAS, Ser Familia adopted a domestic violence task force that had been working in
14 the community and made into one of its regular programs. Georgia Latinos Against Domestic
15 Violence provides the education and resources necessary to raise awareness and promote
16 advocacy against domestic violence in the Georgia Latino community, as well as providing
17 direct services to victims such as support groups and mental health counseling; and

18 WHEREAS, their Cultural Proficiency and Technical Assistance Branch is empowering
19 government and private agencies to better serve Latino youth and families, serving the Office
20 of Prevention and Family Support (Governor's Office), the Administration of Children and
21 Families (Federal Agency), Georgia Power and many other public and private entities; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2014, Belisa Urbina received the 11WhoCare® award by Georgia's local
23 NBC station Channel 11 and was named by *Mundo Hispanico*, the largest Spanish newspaper
24 of Georgia, as one of the most influential Latinos in Georgia in the past 35 years; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2015, Belisa Urbina was named family advocate of the year by the Interfaith
26 Children's Movement and Ser Familia was named organization of the year by *Mundo*
27 *Hispanico*; and

28 WHEREAS, Belisa Urbina is part of Leadership Atlanta Class of 2017; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
30 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend Belisa Urbina for her efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service
33 to the State of Georgia and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued health and
34 happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Belisa Urbina.