

Senate Resolution 250

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th and Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Multi-Agency Alliance for Children and its member entities for their work
2 with Georgia's children and youth who are in the child welfare system and EmpowerMENT
3 who are the youth advocates for children and youth in the child welfare system, both present
4 and future; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, in 1996, a group of nonprofit agencies serving children gathered and founded
6 what is now known as the collaborative nonprofit entity, Multi-Agency Alliance for Children
7 (MAAC); and

8 WHEREAS, MAAC's members are CHRIS 180, Creative Community Services, Inc.,
9 Devereux Georgia Treatment Network, Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family
10 Ministries, Inc., Georgia Elks Aidmore Children's Center, Hillside, Inc., The Methodist
11 Homes, Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services, and Youth Villages; and

12 WHEREAS, each of MAAC's member entities and affiliates utilizes national best practices
13 and has accreditation from a national accrediting body; and

14 WHEREAS, MAAC utilizes a seamless continuum of services and care addressing all the
15 needs of the child, adolescent, and family, including behavioral health services to some of
16 Georgia's most troubled or difficult children, reducing the number of treatment "failures" and
17 multiple placements of children in various out-of-home care settings; and

18 WHEREAS, MAAC's care continuum works to serve children from all parts of Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, each of the member entities and affiliates retains their individuality and
20 expertise in the populations that they serve, striving to eliminate the duplication of services;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, MAAC and its member agencies and affiliates work closely with the
23 Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Community Health,
24 Education, Human Services, and Juvenile Justice to provide services to Georgia's children,
25 adolescents, and families in need; and

26 WHEREAS, MAAC, through its member entities and affiliates, provides a variety of services
27 to these children, adolescents, and families, including residential care, emergency shelter,
28 intensive in-home, wraparound, family foster care, group home, independent living, and
29 intensive psychiatric care; and

30 WHEREAS, MAAC's members and affiliates also offer other supports such as adoption,
31 maternity care, prescriptive educational services, respite care, and other services; and

32 WHEREAS, EmpowerMENT is a group of 300 current and former foster care youth who are
33 advocating for others in the state's child welfare system so that the voices of this state's
34 children and youth may be heard; and

35 WHEREAS, Georgia EmpowerMENT is overseen by MAAC and is provided strong adult
36 support and its volunteers are motivated to positively change the foster care system; advocate
37 for positive change in child welfare policies; and seek appropriate funding and services for
38 Georgia's children and youth who are cared for by the state; and

39 WHEREAS, MAAC and Georgia EmpowerMENT have received numerous awards, including
40 Youth Thrive Award from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Big Voice
41 Award from Voices for Georgia's Children; and

42 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
43 distinguished organization, including its member entities and affiliates, be appropriately
44 recognized for the care it provides to Georgians.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 honor and commend the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children and its member entities and
47 affiliates and EmpowerMENT for their tireless, efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated
48 public service to the children, adolescents, and families of this state.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Multi-Agency
51 Alliance for Children and EmpowerMENT.