

Senate Resolution 294

By: Senators Williams of the 27th, Brass of the 28th, Unterman of the 45th, Dugan of the 30th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 6, 2017, 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, Georgia's children continue to struggle to meet high standards of
8 health, education, family stability, and employability and to compete nationally and
9 internationally; and
- 10 WHEREAS, 25 percent of children in Georgia live in poverty, and 62 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 child well-being; and

24 WHEREAS, students from South Forsyth High School in Cumming, Georgia, have prepared
25 a healthy snack to share with the guests at Children's Day at the state capitol to demonstrate
26 skills learned in the Culinary Arts Career Pathway and emphasize the value of healthy eating;
27 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 event at the state capitol.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize March 6, 2017, 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.