

Senate Resolution 636

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Kennedy of the 18th, Harbison of the 15th, Payne of the 54th, Lucas of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, this state is fortunate to be home to four Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)
4 agencies, including BBBS of the Heart of Georgia; BBBS of Metro Atlanta; BBBS of
5 Northwest Georgia Mountains; and BBBS Chattahoochee Valley; and

6 WHEREAS, together they serve thousands of children and parents across the state, providing
7 one-on-one mentoring experiences, group activities, and parent engagement opportunities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, BBBS of the Heart of Georgia (BBBSHG) in Macon has been serving youth,
10 primarily in Bibb, Houston, Baldwin, and Peach counties, through the use of one-on-one
11 mentoring in central Georgia for 65 years and was named Big Brothers Big Sisters of
12 America Agency of the Year in 2006; and

13 WHEREAS, BBBSHG maintains a strong partnership with Robins Air Force Base and
14 Houston County Schools through the Raising Educational Achievement for Children in
15 Houston (REACH) Program; and

16 WHEREAS, BBBSHG served 330 youths in 2017 through one-on-one mentoring; served
17 even more youngsters through group activities and parent engagement opportunities; and
18 works closely with Mercer, Middle Georgia State University, Georgia College and State
19 University, and Central Georgia Tech with their students acting as mentors; and

20 WHEREAS, BBBS Metro Atlanta, led by interim CEO Peter Lauer, served 1,744 children
21 through one-on-one mentors last year; and

22 WHEREAS, BBBS of Northwest Georgia Mountains in Dalton, led by CEO Staci Halyak,
23 served 327 children in 2017; and

24 WHEREAS, BBBS Chattahoochee Valley in Columbus, led by executive director Erica Lee,
25 served 285 youths in 2017; and

26 WHEREAS, all four agencies have been funded partially or entirely by an Office of Juvenile
27 Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) regional collaborative grant that has aided in
28 serving 423 of this state's most vulnerable youths over a two-year period, and now in the
29 third and final year of that grant, 535 youths will be served through the use of one-on-one
30 mentors; and

31 WHEREAS, the agencies hope to renew the grant and leverage their success with state
32 agencies for support; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding work of this fine program
34 be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program in Georgia and the accomplishments
37 of each agency.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies of
40 this state.