

Senate Resolution 768

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Cowser of the 46th, Kennedy of the 18th, Wilkinson of the 50th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) and recognizing
2 February 14, 2018, as CASA Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) develops and
4 supports affiliate organizations across the state that provide volunteer advocacy for children
5 who have experienced abuse or neglect and are involved in juvenile court dependency
6 proceedings through no fault of their own; and

7 WHEREAS, since its founding 30 years ago, 46 affiliate CASA organizations have been
8 established in Georgia, and over 25,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for more than
9 120,000 children throughout the state; and

10 WHEREAS, last year, 2,486 CASA volunteers advocated for 11,243 children, more than
11 10,200 of whom were in the legal custody of the state; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA is central in fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by ensuring
13 that qualified and compassionate adults will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to
14 be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving,
15 stable family; and

16 WHEREAS, a CASA volunteer is a deeply committed, specially trained individual from the
17 community who is appointed by the juvenile court judge to work within the child welfare
18 system by providing individualized attention; bringing urgency to children's needs
19 throughout their time in state custody; and offering consistency and continuity by helping to
20 connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other
21 stakeholders; and

22 WHEREAS, as an external partner, CASA maximizes resources and support for children and
23 families involved with the child welfare system through increased community involvement

24 and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated, compassionate
25 response to child victims and families in crisis; and

26 WHEREAS, we are proud to recognize CASA volunteers in Georgia for giving selflessly of
27 their time and talents to advocate for the best interests of children in juvenile court
28 dependency proceedings and also commend the volunteer board members and staff of
29 Georgia CASA and the affiliate CASA programs for their countless contributions made on
30 behalf of Georgia's children.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) and recognize
33 February 14, 2018, as CASA Day at the state capitol.

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