

## House Resolution 561

By: Representatives Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Robichaux of the 48<sup>th</sup>, and Smith of the 134<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 22, 2019, as Children's Day at the 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, twenty-one percent of children in Georgia live in poverty, and 60 percent of  
11 students 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 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, the goal of Children's Day is to increase the commitment of all Georgians to  
25 children and children's issues by providing current research, information, and policy  
26 suggestions through a celebratory event at the capitol.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
28 the members of this body recognize March 22, 2019, as Children's Day at the Capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
31 Voices for Georgia's Children.