

Senate Resolution 839

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Albers of the 56th, Parent of the 42nd and Halpern of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Department of Corrections and Common Good Atlanta; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) has collaborated with Georgia
4 nonprofit Common Good Atlanta (CGA) to offer more than 5,000 hours of accredited college
5 courses inside four state prisons since 2008; and

6 WHEREAS, after 14 years of programming and more than 500 incarcerated people
7 completing college courses, including hundreds of released students, CGA has a documented
8 0.5 percent recidivism rate; and

9 WHEREAS, college programming inside prisons impacts prison culture in positive ways,
10 including equipping incarcerated people to have better relationships with each other and with
11 their families; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 46,000 people are currently incarcerated in Georgia, with fewer than
13 1 percent having a college degree when sentenced to a prison term; and

14 WHEREAS, more than 98 percent of people sentenced to prison are released and return to
15 Georgia's neighborhoods seeking employment, housing, and paths to full citizenship; and

16 WHEREAS, CGA alumni are small business owners, motivated employees, taxpayers,
17 community volunteers, and engaged parents who have continued their college educations at
18 Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, and Gwinnett College; and

19 WHEREAS, hundreds of professors, graduate students, and undergraduate students from
20 Emory University, Georgia Tech, Morehouse College, Spelman College, University of
21 Georgia, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Clemson, and Agnes Scott
22 College have participated in the prison program, changing the stigma of a divide between
23 college communities and those individuals who have served time in prison; and

24 WHEREAS, GDC staff work to accommodate visiting faculty and students, as well as
25 affording classroom space and administrative support; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding cooperation between the
27 Georgia Department of Corrections and Common Good Atlanta be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that members of this body
29 enthusiastically commend the Georgia Department of Corrections and Common Good
30 Atlanta for fifteen years of collaboration and for equipping incarcerated people to return to
31 Georgia's communities as productive citizens.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
34 press.