

House Resolution 648

By: Representatives Wilkerson of the 38th, Smith of the 41st, Berry of the 56th, McQueen of the 61st, and Newton of the 127th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the School Social Workers Association of Georgia for its
2 expertise and commitment to the well-being of students and their families; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, each year, thousands of children and their families in this state utilize the
5 services of school social workers, who are master's level trained professionals working in our
6 schools; and

7 WHEREAS, the School Social Workers Association of Georgia is a nonprofit entity that was
8 formed in 1978 to help children and families access resources needed to allow children to
9 thrive and learn; and

10 WHEREAS, the School Social Workers Association is a nonprofit association with more
11 than 450 members statewide; and

12 WHEREAS, the School Social Workers Association of Georgia champions the needs of all
13 children in Georgia's public schools and their families by ensuring access to mental health
14 services, responding promptly to individual and school-wide crises, addressing educational

15 barriers faced by homeless youth, and partnering with community members and
16 organizations to secure resources aimed at enhancing student achievement; and

17 WHEREAS, the School Social Workers Association of Georgia seeks to promote the
18 well-being of its members by offering conferences focused on wellness practices for school
19 social workers and their communities and training that provides strategies to manage stress
20 and prevent burnout and helps to ensure that its members remain effective and resilient in
21 their roles, which is a practice that enhances their ability to support students' mental health
22 and well-being, leading to a more positive and productive school environment as mental
23 health challenges among youth continue to rise; and

24 WHEREAS, the School Social Workers Association of Georgia's members work tirelessly
25 to remove student barriers to learning by intervening to improve school attendance, behavior,
26 and academic achievement; coordinating family, school, and community resources to enable
27 a child to learn as effectively as possible; alleviating stress by making connections for
28 students, family, and school staff; providing crisis intervention services; assessing students
29 with mental health concerns and making referrals where appropriate; identifying and
30 reporting child abuse and neglect; conducting home visits; enhancing the professional
31 capacity of school personnel; and assisting in implementing multi-tiered supports in schools.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize and commend the School Social Workers Association
34 of Georgia and its members for their work done to help provide crisis and counseling
35 services to Georgia's children and their families as well as to improve Georgia's education
36 system, including better student attendance and graduation rates.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 School Social Workers Association of Georgia.