

## Senate Resolution 589

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Hatchett of the 50th, Echols of the 49th and Albers of the 56th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the marriage and family therapists of Georgia and recognizing February 11,  
2 2026, as Marriage and Family Therapy Day at the Capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, strong families and healthy relationships are foundational to the civic,  
4 economic, and social vitality of Georgia, fostering responsibility, resilience, and respect for  
5 others while embodying the shared values of perseverance, integrity, and neighborly care that  
6 define Georgia's proud heritage and continue to guide its progress; and

7 WHEREAS, marriage and family therapy is one of the five essential mental health  
8 professions licensed in Georgia, requiring graduate education, multiple years of supervised  
9 clinical training, and adherence to rigorous professional and ethical standards enforced by  
10 the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and  
11 Family Therapists; and

12 WHEREAS, licensed marriage and family therapists apply systems-focused clinical training  
13 in mental health care and psychotherapy to deliver effective, evidence-based evaluation,  
14 diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental, emotional, behavioral, addiction, and  
15 relationship challenges across the lifespan for Georgia's families, children, individuals,  
16 couples, and communities; and

17 WHEREAS, marriage and family therapists serve Georgia's diverse regions—including rural  
18 and underserved communities—by helping families overcome barriers to access, reducing  
19 strain on other systems, and promoting resilience across generations; and

20 WHEREAS, these practitioners collaborate with schools, courts, other healthcare providers,  
21 community organizations, and public agencies to strengthen individuals and families and  
22 contribute to safer, healthier, and more stable communities throughout Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, the gathering of marriage and family therapists at the state capitol underscores  
24 their commitment to public policy engagement and their dedication to improving the quality  
25 of and access to mental health care for all Georgians; and

26 WHEREAS, it is fitting to commend the marriage and family therapists of Georgia for their  
27 professionalism, compassion, and lasting contributions to the well-being of this state.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
29 commend the licensed marriage and family therapists of Georgia for their vital contributions  
30 to the mental, relational, and community health of this state and recognize February 11, 2026,  
31 as Marriage and Family Therapy Day at the Capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
34 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.