

## Senate Resolution 596

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Hatchett of the 50th, Wicks of the 34th, Watson of the 11th, Echols of the 49th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Georgia and commending their work  
2 in supporting students and families across the state of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Georgia are dedicated to helping  
4 young people realize their full potential through positive, sustained mentor relationships that  
5 support academic success, strengthen families, and build safer, more connected communities;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta has long served youth and families  
8 throughout the metropolitan region, operating 1:1 mentoring programs that pair young people  
9 with caring adult role models who provide long-term guidance, stability and encouragement;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta also serves students through its  
12 workplace mentoring program, that transports students from high schools to corporate  
13 partners' campuses, and the innovative Level Up school-based program, where mentors are  
14 embedded throughout the school day for the entire school year; and

15 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Chattahoochee Valley, in Columbus, likewise  
16 delivers high-quality mentoring programs that support student engagement, foster  
17 confidence, and strengthen academic and social outcomes for children and families  
18 throughout the Columbus area; and

19 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Northwest Georgia Mountains has a profound  
20 impact on the educational system and the students of Whitfield and Murray County, where  
21 mentors serve as role models and advocates helping students reconnect to their schools,  
22 overcome barriers to achievement, and build essential life skills; and

23 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia, in Macon, further extends this  
24 critical work throughout central Georgia, providing relationship-centered programming that  
25 supports school attendance, family stability, and long-term academic success for youth in  
26 Laurens, Peach, Wilkinson and Baldwin counties; and

27 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism poses a significant threat to student learning, graduation  
28 rates, and long-term economic opportunity; the Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies' school-  
29 based and community-based programs have produced measurable improvements in student  
30 attendance, academic performance, and sense of belonging; and

31 WHEREAS, additionally, the findings from a longitudinal economic study showed that the  
32 Big Brothers Big Sisters mentees, known as Littles, grow up to earn 15 percent more over  
33 their lifetime than their peers and that being a Little closes 2/3 of the economic gap,  
34 demonstrating that mentorship is a powerful tool for strengthening Georgia's workforce  
35 pipeline and promoting lifelong success; and

36 WHEREAS, together, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta, Big Brothers Big Sisters  
37 of Chattahoochee Valley, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Northwest Georgia Mountains, and  
38 Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia serve as vital partners in ensuring that  
39 children across Georgia have access to caring adult mentors and evidence-based support that  
40 helps them thrive.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
42 recognize Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Georgia for their leadership in supporting  
43 youth, families, and schools across the state; commend the Level Up program for its proven  
44 impact in reducing chronic absenteeism and strengthening student success in Georgia's  
45 schools; acknowledge the essential role of mentorship in promoting academic achievement,  
46 family stability, and long-term community well-being; and support the continued expansion  
47 of this mentorship-based program that increases attendance, improves engagement, and  
48 builds brighter futures for children across the State of Georgia.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Big Brothers Big  
51 Sisters of Metro Atlanta, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chattahoochee Valley, Big Brothers Big  
52 Sisters of the Northwest Georgia Mountains, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of  
53 Georgia.