

**Subject:** Big step forward for Children's Code Rewrite

**From:**

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## The Child Protection and Public Safety Act Gains Commitment for Action in 2012

This week, **JUSTGeorgia** reached a milestone. **Governor Nathan Deal**, and the Georgia House and Senate leadership, have announced their commitments to ready the **Child Protection and Public Safety Act (Children's Code Rewrite)** for a vote in 2012. Georgia Appleseed is a lead partner in the JUSTGeorgia coalition.



The Child Protection and Public Safety Act is sponsored by **Senator Bill Hamrick** (R-30), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and is co-sponsored by a variety of Senators from both parties. SB 127 is a sweeping revision of Georgia's 40-year-old juvenile law.

Based on data-driven "best practices," with an eye to timeliness and fiscal responsibility, SB 127 is the culmination of more than four years of research, outreach, and consensus-building to amend the body of laws that govern the way the state handles children and families whose lives are impacted by the child welfare and juvenile justice system.

**"The time has come for us to rethink how our state is responding to children who have found themselves in trouble with the law,"** said Governor Deal. **"I applaud the careful thinking and inclusive engagement that has gone into developing the Child Protection and Public Safety Act."**

**Sharon Hill**, Georgia Appleseed Executive Director and former juvenile court judge, noted, "The Governor's support and that of the House and Senate leadership are a gratifying outcome of the hard work that has gone into bringing everyone to the table. This effort to foster inclusive engagement first began when more than 260 Georgia Appleseed volunteers from 13 major law firms interviewed hundreds of stakeholders from across the state about what they thought needed to be done to make a difference in juvenile justice and child welfare in Georgia. The common wisdom of these stakeholders statewide, coupled with exhaustive research and review of the law and best practices, has produced legislation that promises to move Georgia forward."

- To read Georgia Appleseed's *Common Wisdom: Making the Case for a*

*New Georgia Juvenile Code, [click here](#).*

- To learn more, visit [www.JUSTGeorgia.org](http://www.JUSTGeorgia.org)
- [Click here to read SB 127](#)

## 2011 Good Apple Award Dinner to Honor Georgia Appleseed's Founding Supporters

As part of its Fifth Anniversary Celebration, Georgia Appleseed is proud to honor **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP, King & Spalding LLP, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP** and **Southern Company** as the recipients of this year's **A. Stephens Clay Good Apple Awards** for their role in founding Georgia Appleseed. The Awards will be presented at a dinner on Thursday evening, April 28th at Mason Murer Fine Art. For complete information or to make reservations, [click here](#).



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