

House Resolution 12EX2

By: Representatives Hudson of the 120th, Murphy of the 18th, Walker of the 141st, Skipper of the 137th, Smyre of the 136th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to support the proposed study of southern rural poverty;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Zell Miller has announced plans to seek regional revitalization in the
4 rural southland to address some of the nation's worst records of unemployment, disease,
5 poverty, and illiteracy through federal assistance; and

6 WHEREAS, the proposal directs \$250,000 in federal funds to study the need for a Southern
7 Black Belt regional commission similar to the Appalachian Regional Commission to focus
8 resources on southern rural poverty; and

9 WHEREAS, the Southern Black Belt has a 17 percent poverty rate overall and a 33.9 percent
10 poverty rate among African Americans while the national poverty rate is 13.5 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, one-fifth of the 25 million inhabitants live in households below the federal
12 poverty line of \$16,954 a year in earnings for a family of four, and the area abounds with
13 problems that include stagnant job markets, high pregnancy rates, and infant mortality and
14 chronic diseases due to poor nutrition; and

15 WHEREAS, the commission could connect land-grant colleges throughout the Southern
16 Black Belt in the delivery of social services while sharing their resources and best practices.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 the members of this body urge the United States Congress to support the proposed study of
19 southern rural poverty and assist the Southern Black Belt in meeting its educational,
20 economic, and health challenges.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the President of the United

- 1 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members
- 2 of the Georgia congressional delegation.