

House Resolution 1201

By: Representative Mills of the 67th, Post 2

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to reform the current class action lawsuit process; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, over the past decade, there have been abuses of the class action device that have
4 harmed class members with legitimate claims and defendants that have acted responsibly,
5 adversely affected interstate commerce, and undermined public respect for the judicial
6 system in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, class members have been harmed by a number of actions taken by plaintiffs´
8 lawyers, which provide little or no benefit to class members as a whole, including plaintiffs´
9 lawyers receiving large fees, while class members are left with coupons or other awards of
10 little or no value and unjustified rewards being made to certain plaintiffs at the expense of
11 other class members; and

12 WHEREAS, abusive interstate class actions have harmed society as a whole by forcing
13 innocent parties to settle cases rather than risk a huge judgment by a local jury, thereby
14 costing consumers billions of dollars in increased costs to pay for forced settlements and
15 excessive judgments; and

16 WHEREAS, through the use of artful pleading, plaintiffs are able to avoid litigating class
17 actions in federal court, forcing businesses and other organizations to defend interstate class
18 action lawsuits in county and state courts where the lawyers, rather than the claimants, are
19 likely to receive the maximum benefit.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 this body urges the United States Congress to take up and pass class action reform legislation
22 that assures fair and prompt recoveries for class members with legitimate claims, protects
23 responsible companies and other institutions against interstate class actions in state courts,

1 and restores the intent of the framers of the Constitution by providing for federal court
2 consideration of interstate class actions.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
4 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Georgia's congressional
5 delegation.