

Senate Resolution 720

By: Senators Smith of the 52nd, Heath of the 31st, Thomas of the 54th, Hamrick of the 30th, Carter of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring November 7, 2006, as Take Your Kids to Vote Day in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the 1972 general election, 63 percent of American adults voted, a number
4 that dropped to 51 percent in the closely contested 2000 presidential campaign; and

5 WHEREAS, among young people, the decline in voter participation is even more alarming.
6 Although about one-half of all college students are registered to vote, only about 20 percent
7 actually vote; and

8 WHEREAS, a major study by CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic
9 Learning and Engagement, shows that the turnout of Americans between the ages of 18 and
10 24 has fallen by at least 13 percentage points since 1972; and

11 WHEREAS, partially as a result of this decline, the under-25 age group now constitutes as
12 little as 5.1 percent of the electorate in some election years; and

13 WHEREAS, reversing this precipitous decline in election participation by young people is
14 obviously crucial to the continued vitality of American democracy; and

15 WHEREAS, a wealth of research by the Council for Excellence in Government suggests that
16 parents have a major role in their children's future voting habits; and

17 WHEREAS, one such recent study shows that 75 percent of young adults who grew up with
18 political discussion at home are registered to vote and that young people whose parents
19 regularly voted are twice as likely to vote as their peers; and

1 WHEREAS, the survey also showed that parents who discuss politics with their children,
2 who take their children to vote, and who make a habit of voting regularly raise children who
3 volunteer, vote, and are otherwise actively engaged in civic and community activities; and

4 WHEREAS, simply stated, if parents vote regularly, their children are far more likely to vote
5 when they become adults.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that November 7, 2006, is
7 hereby declared to be Take Your Kids to Vote Day in Georgia, and the members of the
8 General Assembly are urged to publicize this resolution in their communities and to
9 encourage their constituents to vote and to include their children in the voting process.