

House Resolution 55

By: Representatives Walker of the 107th and May of the 111th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for local communities to boost family literacy and generate projects that
2 offer to support life-long learning from infancy; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, studies show that reading to babies, toddlers, and young children yields greater
4 financial rewards for society than building a new football stadium; and

5 WHEREAS, local initiatives such as Rock-A-Bye Baby Reader by Carol Olsen and Cheryl
6 Schneider as well as A Book for Baby by Dr. G.J.H. Bienstock encourage family literacy by
7 standing by the conviction that no infant should be denied the gift of reading, regardless of
8 the child's cultural or economic background; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Legislature supports the initiative to greet each newborn Georgian
10 with the gift of a "baby's first book" and encourages the Governor and the First Lady to send
11 an accompanying written message welcoming the baby to the world of reading and
12 expressing confidence in the parents as key educators; and

13 WHEREAS, this proposed gift serves as a necessary response to an alarming rise of literacy
14 deficiency, as it is imperative to the future of Georgia that more young people grow up with
15 both the ability as well as the desire to read; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's gift of reading gives a phenomenal boost for local community efforts
17 to encourage family literacy and therefore fortifies Georgia's economic future and emerging
18 role as global leader.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body hereby express their support for the goal of presenting the gift of
21 reading to all babies born in Georgia birthing hospitals.