

House Resolution 1769

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th, Brooks of the 63rd, Benfield of the 85th, Porter of the 143rd, Williams of the 165th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing César E. Chávez and calling for a national holiday on the occasion of his
2 birthday on March 31, 2008; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in 1927, César E. Chávez, founder of the United Farm
4 Workers, rose to be a major force in American history, making him one of the heroic figures
5 of the 20th century; and

6 WHEREAS, through personal sacrifice, Mr. Chávez focused national attention on the plight
7 of farm workers, making the world aware of their demands for safe and fair working
8 conditions in the fields of our nation; and

9 WHEREAS, millions of Americans from across the nation of all races and nationalities
10 joined him in the movement for farm workers' rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Chávez was also a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, and
12 women's rights and was an early environmentalist, warning the public of the devastating
13 affects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of these and other valuable contributions, nine states now celebrate
15 César E. Chávez's birthday, March 31, as a holiday, including California, Arizona, Texas,
16 New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and

17 WHEREAS, countless schools, streets, libraries, and other public institutions have been
18 named after César E. Chávez, and many cities have honored him by establishing an official
19 city holiday on his birthday; and

20 WHEREAS, the life of Mr. Chávez, who, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an adherent
21 to nonviolent civil disobedience, serves as a model for all Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, the César E. Chávez National Holiday organization, based in Los Angeles,
2 California, is spearheading a national effort to win support for a national holiday and day of
3 service, learning, and action to be established on his birthday, March 31; and

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Latino Forum unanimously passed a similar resolution supporting
5 the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort at its 2nd Annual Meeting on January 26, 2008;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), the GALEO
8 Latino Community Development Fund, and the GALEO Leadership Councils will hold a
9 historic, multiracial, and multiethnic rally in support of the César E. Chávez National
10 Holiday effort on March 31, 2008, at the state capitol, which will be the first rally ever held
11 in Georgia to honor César E. Chávez.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body join together to call on the United States Congress and President
14 Bush to establish an official federal holiday and day of service, learning, and action for César
15 E. Chávez on his birthday, March 31st, each year in honor of his exemplary work on behalf
16 of farm workers, civil rights, labor rights, and women's rights.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
18 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the César E. Chávez
19 National Holiday organization.