

House Resolution 1718

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 126<sup>th</sup>, and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Mark Becker as the recipient of the Ferst Foundation for  
2 Childhood Literacy's inaugural *For the Love of Reading* Award and inviting him to be  
3 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy (FFCL) began in 1999 in Morgan  
5 County, Georgia, through the efforts of Robin Ferst, who modeled her program on the  
6 Imagination Library initiative begun by musician and philanthropist Dolly Parton in  
7 Tennessee; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Ferst, an Atlanta businesswoman and philanthropist, began the organization  
9 with the philosophy that any child who cannot read is at-risk and the best way to ensure  
10 success in school is to encourage reading at home from an early age; and

11 WHEREAS, through her efforts and the support of a growing number of individuals and  
12 community partners, the Foundation over the last ten years has sent more than 1.7 million  
13 books to over 90,000 Georgia preschool children in 70 counties; and

14 WHEREAS, in March, 2010, the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy celebrates its tenth  
15 anniversary of introducing children to the wonderful world of books and helping them  
16 develop the skills necessary to be successful in school; and

17 WHEREAS, to mark the anniversary and promote the organization's efforts, the Ferst  
18 Foundation recruited executives from across Georgia to participate in this friendly  
19 competition highlighting one of the easiest ways to improve a child's school preparedness --  
20 reading to him or her daily; and

21 WHEREAS, the presidents of the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and the  
22 Georgia Institute of Technology as well as corporate and nonprofit institutions urged their  
23 students, colleagues, alumni, clients, employees, and friends to support their quest to be

24 declared the Favorite Reader, as well as raise funds for the Foundation to expand its reach  
25 into Metro Atlanta and more Georgia communities; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Becker read "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" to preschool children at the  
27 Lanette S. Suttles Child Development Center on the GSU Campus; and

28 WHEREAS, the real winners in the friendly competition are the many children around the  
29 state who will be the beneficiaries of the nearly \$7,000.00 raised during the competition,  
30 which will provide books each month to almost 200 youngsters and help instill in them the  
31 joy of reading.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body join in recognizing and commending Dr. Mark Becker as the  
34 recipient of the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy's inaugural *For the Love of Reading*  
35 Award.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Mark Becker, President of Georgia State University,  
37 is hereby invited to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be  
38 fixed by the Speaker of the House for the purpose of receiving an appropriate copy of this  
39 resolution.