

House Resolution 1950

By: Representatives Jones of the 44th, Abrams of the 84th, Jones of the 46th, Manning of the 32nd, Mangham of the 94th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Georgia Department of Education to implement a strategy for informing Georgia
2 students about the dangers of sending explicit or graphic texts; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, texts featuring explicit images of minors are illegal under both federal and
4 Georgia laws prohibiting the distribution and possession of child pornography; and
- 5 WHEREAS, according to a joint study by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and
6 Unplanned Pregnancy and *CosmoGirl*, 20 percent of teenagers have shared nude or
7 semi-nude pictures of themselves either via text or posting online; and
- 8 WHEREAS, a photo shared between two students can quickly become a viral phenomenon,
9 because the message can be forwarded easily to the entire school population and beyond; and
- 10 WHEREAS, students need to be informed of the many dangers of sending explicit texts,
11 including damage to one's reputation, the inability to take a photo back once it has been sent,
12 and the legal and criminal implications of sending an explicit photo to another; and
- 13 WHEREAS, a majority of students in middle and high school own a cell phone, and some
14 older children in elementary school are given cell phones in order to stay in touch with their
15 parents; and
- 16 WHEREAS, schools need to warn their students of the dangers of sending explicit texts by
17 providing educational materials on the issue and holding an age-appropriate assembly at the
18 beginning of each school year; and
- 19 WHEREAS, young people are this state's most precious natural resource, and it is incumbent
20 upon adults to ensure their protection and safety.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Education to develop a
23 comprehensive strategy for educating all students in grades four through 12 on the dangers
24 of sending texts featuring explicit images through the creation of an informative poster to be
25 hung in each school's cafeteria and by requiring each school to hold an assembly appropriate
26 to each school regarding sending texts featuring explicit images at the start of each school
27 year.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Education is urged to adopt
29 a uniform program regarding education on sending texts featuring explicit images before the
30 start of the 2010-2011 school year and provide each school district with the appropriate
31 information via electronic means of communication.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of
34 Education.