

House Resolution 248

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36th, Casas of the 103rd, Dickson of the 6th, Powell of the 29th, Neal of the 1st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the intent of the members of the House of Representatives with respect to funding
2 for National Board Certified Teachers; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's 2010 "Teacher of the Year" Pam Williamson is a National Board
4 Certified Teacher (NBCT), and the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, Sarah Brown
5 Wessling of Iowa, is a National Board Certified Teacher; and

6 WHEREAS, five of the last nine "National Teacher of the Year" awards have been bestowed
7 upon National Board Certified Teachers; and

8 WHEREAS, National Board Certified Teachers comprise approximately 3 percent of the
9 national teaching force but have won over one-third of the 2010 State Teacher of the Year
10 Awards and 2009 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, four of the five honorees of the National Teacher Hall of Fame and the 2010
13 National Teacher of the Year are National Board Certified Teachers; and

14 WHEREAS, National Board has been found by the National Research Council to have "a
15 positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development";
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia strongly encouraged its teachers to become National Board Certified,
18 and even paid for the process for them to do so; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia further incentivized its educators to become National Board Certified
20 by offering them a 10 percent stipend for 10 years in their current salary to do so; and

21 WHEREAS, the process to become National Board Certified may take up to three years to
22 complete; and

23 WHEREAS, beginning in 2006, only teachers agreeing to serve in Georgia's "Needs
24 Improvement" schools were eligible for the stipend; and

25 WHEREAS, the stipend for teachers having already become certified as National Board
26 teachers was reduced by one-half in 2009, and then eliminated entirely in 2010; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia's National Board Certified Teachers have continued to deliver an
28 exceptional classroom experience despite these cuts.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body are committed to restoring funding for National Board Certified
31 Teachers at the earliest possible date, as funding permits.

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 State Board of
34 Education.