

House Resolution 362

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Casas of the 103rd, Purcell of the 159th, Reece of the 11th, Clark of the 104th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the first week of October as Georgia Pre-K Week; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, an increasing body of research now shows that more than 85 percent of a child's
3 brain is developed by age five, forming the foundation for communication, critical thinking,
4 and literacy; and
- 5 WHEREAS, quality early learning experiences ensure children will be more prepared for
6 kindergarten, which has proven positive results on longer-term life success; and
- 7 WHEREAS, students must start school ready to succeed in order to be able to read at grade
8 level by the third grade; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the National Institute for Early Education Research recognizes Georgia's Pre-K
10 program for its high ratio of teachers to children, its small class sizes, and meeting eight of
11 ten benchmarks for quality; and
- 12 WHEREAS, strong programs like Georgia Pre-K have been shown to increase standardized
13 test scores and high school graduation rates; and
- 14 WHEREAS, economists have shown that for every public dollar invested in high-caliber
15 early education, an average of \$7.00 can be saved by reducing the need for remedial
16 education and the costs of other social service supports; and
- 17 WHEREAS, each student should be able to learn in an intellectually challenging
18 environment that is physically and emotionally safe; and
- 19 WHEREAS, early investment reduces societal costs of welfare, crime, delinquency, and teen
20 pregnancy and yields a significant long-term return on investment in workforce productivity;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the first week of October is an appropriate week to designate as Georgia Pre-K
23 Week.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize the importance of preparing young children for
26 kindergarten through pre-k programs and declare the first week of October as Georgia Pre-K
27 Week.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.