

House Resolution 364

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, Ashe of the 56th, Oliver of the 83rd, Parent of the 81st, Gardner of the 57th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Georgia to increase the
2 quality, accessibility, and affordability of pre-K programs for Georgia children; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, ninety percent of brain development occurs by age 5; and

5 WHEREAS, early education means children will be more prepared for kindergarten, which
6 has proven positive results on longer-term life success; and

7 WHEREAS, forty years of early education research show that programs which positively
8 impact children are those with highly skilled teachers, age-appropriate activities, stimulating
9 materials, and a safe environment; and

10 WHEREAS, the economic impact of investing \$1.00 in early education now saves \$6.00
11 down the road; and

12 WHEREAS, early investment yields a significant long-term return on investment in terms
13 of both workforce productivity and reduced societal costs of welfare and crime, leading to
14 a better economic outcome for the future of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, currently in Georgia, only about two percent of the funding from philanthropy
16 going to education is directed to early learning.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 the members of this body request and strongly urge that the Georgia General Assembly and
19 the Governor of the State of Georgia work in conjunction to:

20 (1) Increase the quality, accessibility, and affordability of early care and education for all
21 Georgia children;

- 22 (2) Establish higher standards of excellence for pre-K programs that help Georgia's
23 children enter kindergarten ready to learn and on a path to "read to learn" by 3rd grade;
24 (3) Provide resources for parents to evaluate and support pre-K learning;
25 (4) Increase public awareness of the importance of learning from birth to age 5;
26 (5) Fully fund public pre-K programs by cutting funding to student scholarship
27 organizations that fund private schools; and
28 (6) Decrease the waiting list for HOPE-funded pre-K programs.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to legislative leaders and to
31 the Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia.