

**House Resolution 497**

By: Representatives Purcell of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, and others

**A RESOLUTION**

- 1    Urging local school systems and schools in Georgia to adopt policies that prohibit the use of
- 2    tobacco on campus and at school facilities; and for other purposes.
  
- 3    WHEREAS, 109 of 180 local school systems currently have policies in place which prohibit
- 4    the use of tobacco at school facilities by students and staff; and
  
- 5    WHEREAS, these school systems include instruction on the consequences of using tobacco
- 6    as part of their curriculum; and
  
- 7    WHEREAS, educators across this state serve as role models for their students and it is
- 8    imperative that they abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the vicinity of
- 9    students; and
  
- 10   WHEREAS, research has shown that smoking harms nearly every organ in the body; and
  
- 11   WHEREAS, smoking and tobacco use are known to cause many diseases and reduce the
- 12   health of tobacco users in general; and
  
- 13   WHEREAS, more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from HIV,
- 14   illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined; and
  
- 15   WHEREAS, smoking causes 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80 percent of
- 16   all lung cancer deaths in women; and
  
- 17   WHEREAS, smoking is associated with numerous adverse health effects and smokeless
- 18   tobacco users are at heightened risk for oral cancer; and
  
- 19   WHEREAS, there are adverse effects for both smokers and those exposed to second hand
- 20   smoking; and

21 WHEREAS, high school students who use tobacco are more likely to use other drugs at some  
22 point.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 the members of this body urge local schools and local school systems to establish policies  
25 that prohibit the use of tobacco products on their campuses and in their facilities and to create  
26 educational curriculums to inform students of the risks of tobacco use.