

Senate Resolution 365

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th and Fort of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Rachel Willis; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Rachel Willis has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the
3 vital role that she has played in the teaching profession and her deep personal commitment
4 to the education of the students of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Willis is a highly respected third grade teacher at Morningside Elementary
6 School in Atlanta, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the exceptional instructional practices and teaching methods of Ms. Willis have
8 led to her selection as one of Georgia's 2010 national Milken Educator Award winners; and

9 WHEREAS, the Milken Educator Awards is the largest teacher recognition program in the
10 United States, with a national network of over 2,500 honorees since the program's inception
11 in 1985; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Willis was recommended for the honor by a blue ribbon committee of
13 education and policy leaders appointed by the Georgia Department of Education for her
14 dedication and commitment to education, effective instructional practices, and student
15 achievement; and

16 WHEREAS, during her tenure at Morningside, she has achieved exemplary educational
17 accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the teaching
18 profession, demonstrated strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership,
19 and engaged and inspired the students, teachers, and parents who surround her; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Willis earned a bachelor's degree from Smith College, a certificate in
21 elementary education from Agnes Scott College, and a master's in education leadership from
22 Columbia University Teacher's College; and

23 WHEREAS, she began her distinguished career in education in 2004 as a member of the
24 Teach for America corps and was named Elementary Teacher of the Year for Atlanta Public
25 Schools in 2009-2010; and

26 WHEREAS, nothing is more vital to the future of our state than the education of our young
27 people, and Ms. Willis has, during her teaching career, exemplified the selfless dedication
28 and professionalism which are characteristic of our finest educators; and

29 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body join in expressing appreciation to Ms. Willis for
30 her outstanding efforts and accomplishments in education.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 hereby recognize, commend, and congratulate Ms. Rachel Willis upon her selection as one
33 of Georgia's 2010 national Milken Educator Award winners and express gratitude for the
34 great credit this fine educator reflects upon the State of Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Rachel Willis.