

## Senate Resolution 649

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th, Jones of the 10th, Tate of the 38th, Millar of the 40th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Shekema Silveri for being recognized with the Milken Educator Award; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Shekema Silveri is the only teacher in Georgia to receive the Milken Educator  
4 Award this year; and

5 WHEREAS, as the winner of a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award, Silveri, chair of her  
6 school's language arts department, has now been recognized as one of the top teachers in the  
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, she is married to fellow Clayton County educator William Silveri, who shares  
9 her belief that the job is a calling; and

10 WHEREAS, Shekema Silveri believes her classroom has to be a healing place for her  
11 students; "I want students who actually appreciate a teacher who loves them," she says. "I  
12 would not be in my element in a school where students said, 'I don't need a teacher to love  
13 me because I have two parents and a nanny.'"; and

14 WHEREAS, her deep affection for her students at Mount Zion High School in Jonesboro  
15 takes many forms, from cautioning them at the start of the weekend, "Come back to me  
16 safely. I love you," to daily texts to a teen whose mother died three years ago, "Good  
17 morning princess, God loves you, and so do I," to shopping for groceries on Saturday for a  
18 needy student; and

19 WHEREAS, she gives her students her cell phone number for homework help at night and  
20 regularly engages in online writer's conferences with them via Skype; and

21 WHEREAS, "I am my students," she says. "I grew up in public housing after my  
22 grandmother died and I had to go back to live with my mother. I have been homeless with  
23 a 5-week-old baby. I knew that I wanted more than what I had seen in my life."; and

24 WHEREAS, the 35-year-old mother of four understands the appeal of more affluent schools  
25 in upscale suburbs. Silveri attended one of them under the minority to majority program,  
26 M-to-M, which allowed students from less-successful schools in south Fulton to attend  
27 higher performing ones in the north side of the county; and

28 WHEREAS, a top student in college and grad school, Silveri is a doctoral candidate at  
29 Georgia State University; and

30 WHEREAS, in giving her the award, the Milken Foundation cited her accomplishments in  
31 the classroom, noting that 100 percent of her students passed the state End of Course Test  
32 for American Literature; and

33 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Shekema Silveri be honored for being the only  
34 Georgia teacher to receive the prestigious Milken Educator Award this year.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 honor Shekema Silveri for her outstanding accomplishments inside and outside the  
37 classroom.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Shekema Silveri.