A RESOLUTION

1. Urging the United States Department of Labor to recall proposed policies; and for other purposes.

2. WHEREAS, agriculture is the backbone of Georgia's economy, generating over $68 billion and employing one in seven Georgians; and

3. WHEREAS, passing on the family farm to the next generation is vital to the continued survival of the agriculture industry; and

4. WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor seeks to impose harsh, extreme, and uncalled for regulations attempting to ban students from working on farms; and

5. WHEREAS, the proposed rules could prohibit children under 16 from being paid to operate most power-driven equipment, including tractors and combines; and

6. WHEREAS, the proposed rules will bar those under 18 from working at grain elevators, silos, feedlots, and livestock auctions and from transporting raw farm materials; and

7. WHEREAS, the proposed rules only allow for the direct children of the single owner of the farm to work, it would ban grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and family friends, and it would ban children from working on family farms owned by more than one family member or incorporated agribusiness; and

8. WHEREAS, it is understood that not all farm labor jobs are suitable for children, and it cannot be ignored that age appropriate jobs can be a positive experience that can leave memories that last a lifetime; and
WHEREAS, over 200,000 Georgia students participate in 4-H and FFA each year, and the opportunities to learn safe practices in agriculture as well as simply complete program requirements would be limited, if not eliminated, if these rules move forward; and

WHEREAS, under both Republican and Democratic control, Congress never held a hearing on legislation amending the Fair Labor Standards Act to ban children under the age of 18 from working on a farm; and

WHEREAS, it must be noted that legislation has been introduced every year since 2005, and in the 109th and 110th, the current United States Labor Secretary, Hilda Solis, cosponsored the legislation; and

WHEREAS, it can be deduced that these regulations defy the will and intent of Congress, and it is wrong and unfair that the United States Department of Labor states that the "youngsters working on farms are robbed of their childhood"; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Solis has circumvented the will of Congress, and the United States Department of Labor is reevaluating the parent exemption and is encouraged to do so completely throughout this section of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body condemn the proposed rules, urge the United States Department of Labor to recall them, and call on Agriculture Secretary Vilsack to speak up for the farm families of America and reject the proposed discrimination practices set forth by the Labor Department's proposed policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Congress, Secretary Solis, and Secretary Vilsack.