

Senate Resolution 1061

By: Senator Bulloch of the 11th

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, it is understood that not all farm labor jobs are suitable for children, and it
18 cannot be ignored that age appropriate jobs can be a positive experience that can leave
19 memories that last a lifetime; and

20 WHEREAS, over 200,000 Georgia students participate in 4-H and FFA each year, and the
21 opportunities to learn safe practices in agriculture as well as simply complete program
22 requirements would be limited, if not eliminated, if these rules move forward; and

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

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

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

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

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

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Congress, Secretary Solis, and Secretary
41 Vilsack.