

House Resolution 76

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Waites of the 60th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and Jones of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Encouraging government action to help lift women out of poverty; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives recognizes the important role of
3 postsecondary education for women and salutes and commends the work of the 2011
4 National Seminar for State Legislators Center for Women Policy Studies for proposing
5 policies on access to postsecondary education for low-income women; and
- 6 WHEREAS, education has always been a hallmark of the American dream; and
- 7 WHEREAS, since the founding of this nation and its system of public education, which
8 includes community colleges and public land grant colleges and universities, a college
9 education has been a traditional route to lasting economic self-sufficiency and social mobility
10 in the United States; and
- 11 WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of workers with postsecondary education certificates
12 and degrees entering the United States workforce; and
- 13 WHEREAS, between 1973 and 2008, the share of jobs in the economy of the United States
14 which required postsecondary education increased from 28 to 59 percent, and the share of
15 jobs requiring some higher education will increase from 59 to 63 percent in the next decade;
16 and
- 17 WHEREAS, in six short years, the nation will need 22 million new college graduates, but
18 will fall short of this number by at least three million postsecondary degrees; and
- 19 WHEREAS, our nation will need at least 4.7 million new workers with postsecondary
20 certificates; and

21 WHEREAS, the need for postsecondary education is in ever increasing demand in the United
22 States and low-income women's contributions cannot be underestimated; and

23 WHEREAS, the need for postsecondary education to reduce poverty cannot be overestimated
24 when, among women of 25 years and older living below the federal poverty level, 19 percent
25 have a high school diploma and only 6 percent have a college degree; and

26 WHEREAS, women who earn four-year college degrees increase their annual incomes
27 significantly and gain upward mobility in the workplace; and

28 WHEREAS, welfare rolls have been slashed and states face financial crises and Temporary
29 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients now more than ever require programs that
30 will help them work their way out of poverty and into gainful employment and career paths;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, former TANF recipients with a college education are more likely to stay
33 employed and less likely to return to TANF for any length of time; and

34 WHEREAS, there is clear evidence that postsecondary education is an effective welfare
35 reform strategy that will help women move from poverty to economic security; and

36 WHEREAS, a woman's college success has an enormous and positive impact on her
37 children, who are more likely to take education seriously and aspire to go to college
38 themselves; and

39 WHEREAS, it is clear that reducing children's poverty on a large scale is virtually impossible
40 without some effort to lift their parents out of poverty and into secure careers for which
41 completing a two or four-year college degree is essential.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 this body encourages policy leaders at all levels, federal, state, and local, to promote policies
44 that create educational paths for women and girls to pursue postsecondary education.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge the aggressive
46 enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
47 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in grades K through 12 and
48 postsecondary educational institutions.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge increases in resources
50 for support systems that help low-income women pursue postsecondary education, such as
51 counseling and career development, child and dependent care, domestic violence screening,
52 and counseling and financial aid.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge more resources be
54 provided for programs at the K through postsecondary education levels to increase women's
55 and girls' proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which will
56 prepare them to enter and succeed in a growing number of lucrative fields and careers
57 requiring these backgrounds.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge changes to the
59 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) regulations to include postsecondary
60 education as "an allowable work activity," thereby enabling TANF recipients to enroll in two
61 and four-year degree programs.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
63 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the media.