

House Resolution 558

By: Representatives Pruett of the 149th, England of the 116th, McCall of the 33rd, Setzler of the 35th, Hitchens of the 161st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending school districts participating in the Farm to School 5 Million Meals Campaign;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia agencies, schools, parents, students, farmers, and communities are
4 collaborating and working together to reduce childhood obesity; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's agricultural economy represents an existing asset to deliver more
6 fresh, healthy food to Georgia schoolchildren; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education serves 1.5 million meals a day and would
8 represent a significant and consistent market opportunity for Georgia producers; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has committed its support to a
10 successful Feed My School For A Week initiative, now in its second year, to connect
11 Georgia farmers with Georgia schools; and

12 WHEREAS, school districts in this state have stepped up to become leaders by taking a
13 pledge to serve more fresh, local food in the school cafeteria in an effort to serve 5 Million
14 Meals this school year with a fresh, Georgia-grown item, including the Appling, Atlanta,
15 Baldwin, Bleckley, Burke, Carrollton, Clarke, Cobb, Commerce, Crisp, City of Decatur,
16 Fulton, Grady, Habersham, Harris, Hart, Jackson, Madison, Marietta, Newton, Pickens,
17 Rockdale, Savannah-Chatham, and Tift County Schools; and

18 WHEREAS, farm to school programs represent an innovative opportunity to address some
19 of the most critical issues facing Georgia through a comprehensive approach that seeks to
20 improve child nutrition, thus improving academic performance and providing local market
21 opportunities for Georgia farmers; and

22 WHEREAS, evidence based results of farm to school programs include improved changes
23 in personal diets and an increase in revenue staying in the local community, fueling direct
24 and indirect job protection and creation; and

25 WHEREAS, healthier kids means smarter kids, as research indicates healthy students
26 perform better on testing and are absent less often; and

27 WHEREAS, community partners and local assets are playing a critical role in program
28 success in these communities; and

29 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the importance of these programs and
30 encourages more schools to adopt farm to school programs.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body commend farm to school programs as a viable solution to address
33 Georgia's obesity crisis and provide economic opportunity for Georgia farmers.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to school districts participating
36 in the Farm to School 5 Million Meals Campaign.