

Senate Resolution 430

By: Senators Carter of the 42nd, Wilkinson of the 50th, Harper of the 7th, Ginn of the 47th and Crosby of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia school districts participating in the Farm to School 5 Million Meals Campaign; 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 1.7 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 the 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, the following school districts in the state have stepped up to become leaders by 13 taking a pledge to serve more fresh, local food in the school cafeteria in an effort to serve 14 five million meals this school year with a fresh, locally grown item: 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; 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, which fuels
24 direct and indirect job protection and creation; and

25 WHEREAS, healthier children means smarter children, 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, it is abundantly fitting and proper that schools participating in this initiative to
30 preserve the healthy lifestyles of the young citizens of this state, thereby helping them to be
31 physically and mentally fit, be recognized as an asset to the State of Georgia.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 commend farm to school as a viable solution to address Georgia's obesity crisis, encourage
34 more schools to adopt this program, and recognize its potential in providing economic
35 opportunity for Georgia farmers.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each of the school districts participating
38 in the Farm to School 5 Million Meals Campaign.