

House Resolution 402

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Glanton of the 75th, Casas of the 107th, Cantrell of the 22nd, Hilton of the 95th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 2-6, 2017, as Georgia Pre-K Week; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K and other quality early education programs prepare children
3 for school and set them on a path to reading proficiency by the end of third grade; and
- 4 WHEREAS, this year marks the 25th anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K, a program that has
5 served 1.4 million children in Georgia since it began and currently provides quality early
6 education experiences to more than one-half of the state's 4 year old children; and
- 7 WHEREAS, for the first time, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognized two outstanding
8 educators, one from a public school system and one from a private child care center, as
9 Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year for 2016-2017; the inaugural Pre-K Teachers
10 of the Year are Connie Ellington of Bethlehem Elementary School in Barrow County and
11 Channie Frazier of Kids World Learning Center in Bulloch County; and
- 12 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia
13 with over 2,800 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality improvement
14 system for child care programs; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
16 generating \$4.7 billion dollars of economic activity annually and providing approximately
17 68,000 jobs in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000
20 children per year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers including family
21 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
22 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

23 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will host Georgia Pre-K Week for the seventh
24 year in a row during the first full week of October; and

25 WHEREAS, the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy will provide quality Pre-K books
26 to legislators as a part of its commitment to increasing early learning opportunities in Georgia
27 with the hope of breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize October 2-6, 2017, as Georgia Pre-K Week; thank the
30 hundreds of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K
31 program and other high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators,
32 community members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and to
33 support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great
34 State of Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
37 Voices for Georgia's Children.