

## Senate Resolution 358

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Millar of the 40th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Sims of the 12th, Brass of the 28th 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 of economic activity annually and providing approximately 68,000  
17 jobs in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000  
19 children per year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers including family  
20 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,  
21 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

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

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

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

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