

Senate Resolution 571

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Honorable Vincent D. Fort; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Vincent D. Fort is the Senator for District 39 in the Georgia Legislature where
3 he has represented parts of Atlanta, East Point, College Park, Union City, and south Fulton
4 County since first winning election to the State Senate in 1996; and

5 WHEREAS, he received his bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University and
6 his Master's Degree in African American History from Atlanta University; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Fort is a career educator, working most of his teaching career at the
8 schools of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including the Atlanta University
9 Center, Morris Brown College, and Morehouse College; and

10 WHEREAS, as a professional educator, he supports public schools and teachers and is a
11 selfless advocate and champion for the preservation of public schools, equal access and
12 opportunity for all students, and the improvement of public schools systems and programs
13 which include families, neighborhoods, and extended community involvement; and

14 WHEREAS, he has successfully led efforts to secure tens of millions of dollars in additional
15 funding for Atlanta Metropolitan College and Atlanta Technical College in order to provide
16 affordable educational opportunities for Atlanta's young adults and those wishing to pursue
17 continuing education and training; and

18 WHEREAS, he served as President of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, where he
19 worked successfully with city leaders to improve Atlanta's neighborhoods – including a
20 partnership with the labor movement to provide job training in the neighborhoods near
21 Atlanta's 1996 Olympic Stadium; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Fort led the fight with Governor Roy Barnes to pass the nation's
23 toughest law against predatory lenders; and

24 WHEREAS, his legislation to fight predatory lending has been recognized by the national
25 media as a model that could have helped reduce the severity of the 2008 financial crisis; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Fort was the first Georgia legislator to sponsor a bill to create a state
27 hate crimes law, an effort he continues to lead to this day which would enhance penalties for
28 criminals who choose their victims based on biases of race, gender, religion, or sexual
29 orientation; and

30 WHEREAS, Senator Fort has served with distinction as the Minority Whip of the Georgia
31 Senate, the second highest ranking position in the Democratic Caucus; and

32 WHEREAS, Senator Fort has been the Georgia Senate's leading fighter for progressive
33 values for more than two decades; and

34 WHEREAS, he is a passionate believer that every person should live in a just and fair
35 society, committing his life's work to this cause; and

36 WHEREAS, he is the proud father of one son, Zan; two daughters, Zoe and Faith; and two
37 beautiful granddaughters, Gizelle and Chloe; and

38 WHEREAS, Senator Fort has provided fearless leadership for the Senate Democratic Caucus
39 and his day-to-day presence will be remembered and can never be replaced; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
41 remarkable and distinguished Georgian should be appropriately recognized.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize and commend the Honorable Vincent D. Fort for his dedicated service,
44 mentorship, and leadership.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Honorable
47 Vincent D. Fort.