

Senate Resolution 189

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Kirk of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Dugan of the 30th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2019, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide Georgia's youth with safe, challenging, and
4 engaging learning experiences that help them to develop social, emotional, physical, and
5 academic skills; and

6 WHEREAS, more time spent in afterschool programs is associated with better work habits,
7 improved academic performance, better attitudes regarding school, improved grade point
8 averages, and fewer school absences; and

9 WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families and build stronger communities
10 by ensuring that children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends and by
11 involving parents, community leaders, businessmen, and adult volunteers in the lives of
12 young people; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study from the Afterschool Alliance, approximately 16
14 percent of Georgia's school aged youth are in afterschool programs, but nearly 600,000 more
15 of Georgia's youth would participate in an afterschool program if one were available in their
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, more than 315,000 of Georgia's youth are alone and unsupervised between the
18 hours of 3 PM and 6 PM, the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs,
19 alcohol, cigarettes, and sex; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people
21 by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help to close the achievement gap and
22 to prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia state agencies, including the Departments of Education, Human
24 Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Early Care and Learning, and
25 Public Health as well as the Georgia Alliance of YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs of Georgia,
26 the Georgia Public Library Service, and the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association play
27 a critical role in supporting Georgia's youth through quality afterschool and summer
28 programming; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative, has
30 convened these organizations and afterschool providers from across the state for the
31 inaugural Afterschool Day at the state capitol in order to encourage lawmakers to recognize
32 the critical role that afterschool programs play in supporting communities and preparing
33 Georgia's youth for success in college and throughout their life and career.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize February 20, 2019, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
38 Statewide Afterschool Network.