

## House Resolution 328

By: Representatives Clark of the 98<sup>th</sup>, Mathiak of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Cooke of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Stover of the 71<sup>st</sup>, Jones of the 167<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Speaker of the House of Representatives to resign from his leadership  
2 position; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, although Georgia law (O.C.G.A. Section 17-8-26) allows attorney/legislators  
4 to obtain court date extensions to meet bona fide legislative obligations outside of the  
5 legislative session, the Speaker has demonstrated unacceptable abuse of power and  
6 professional judgment by obtaining unjustifiable court date extensions; and

7 WHEREAS, these extensions have prevented access to justice for crime victims for 5-10  
8 years for cases involving violent felonies, sexual crimes, DUI, and domestic abuse; and

9 WHEREAS, these cases include, but are not limited to:

10 A DUI case from 2008 that has received 17 court date extensions over 10 years;

11 A rape/child molestation case involving a 14-year old girl that has received 8 court date  
12 extensions over more than 5 years;

13 An enticing a child for indecent purposes case from 2009 that has received 14 court date  
14 extensions;

15 A domestic violence case in which the battered wife has been unable to have a trial for  
16 more than 5 years; and

17 WHEREAS, in the past two years, the Speaker has used his legislative privilege to delay  
18 justice in 21 court cases in four North Georgia counties through 57 separate court date  
19 extensions, 81.7 percent of which were granted for dates outside of the legislative session;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, while the House of Representatives affirms the right to vigorous legal defense  
22 of the accused within our criminal justice system, as an officer of the court, an attorney has  
23 a legal obligation to never use his position as a legislator or Speaker of the House to delay  
24 justice for crime victims, many of whom are his constituents.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body hereby encourage David Ralston, Representative from the 7th  
27 House District, to resign immediately from his role as Speaker of the House, and as a citizen  
28 legislator to represent his district and clients in a way that provides prompt and effective  
29 justice for all.