

## House Resolution 1072

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Mathiak of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, and Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 5-9, 2020, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot  
4 program serving 750 students and now provides quality early education experiences to more  
5 than half of the state's four-year-old children; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K has helped prepare approximately 1.6 million of Georgia's  
7 children for success in kindergarten and beyond since it began; and

8 WHEREAS, children in Georgia's Pre-K show significant gains across all learning domains  
9 regardless of gender and income differences. Findings from the longitudinal study on  
10 Georgia's Pre-K conducted by Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute showed that  
11 these gains were sustained through the end of first grade; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators - one from a  
13 public school system and one from a private child care center - as Georgia's Pre-K Program  
14 Teachers of the Year for 2019-2020. The Pre-K Teachers of the Year are Heather Williams  
15 from Central Georgia Technical College's Larry O'Neal Child Development Center in  
16 Warner Robins, Georgia, and Jonathan Hines from Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet  
17 School of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia  
19 with more than 3,500 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality  
20 improvement system for child care programs, with more than 2,000 programs star-rated; and

21 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy generating  
22 \$4.7 billion dollars of economic activity annually and providing more than 67,000 jobs in the  
23 industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

24 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 363,000  
25 children a year in approximately 4,500 early care and education centers, including family  
26 child care homes, group child care homes, pre-kindergarten programs, military family child  
27 care homes, Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

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

30 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia will provide quality pre-kindergarten books to  
31 legislators as a part of its commitment to improve early literacy throughout the state; and

32 WHEREAS, members of the Junior League of Atlanta, including president Andrea N. Smith  
33 and president-elect Bre West, are present today in celebration of Georgia's Pre-K Program  
34 providing a solid start for our state's youngest learners.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the  
36 members of this body recognize October 5-9, 2020, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state  
37 capitol; thank the hundreds of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally  
38 recognized pre-kindergarten program and other high-quality early education programs; and  
39 encourage parents, educators, community members, and business leaders to participate in  
40 Georgia Pre-K Week and to support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education  
41 for all children in the great State of Georgia.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Voices  
44 for Georgia's Children and the public and the press.