

House Resolution 322

By: Representatives Evans of the 83rd, Carter of the 92nd, Kennard of the 102nd, Wilson of the 80th, and Holland of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Science for Georgia, the Technology Association Georgia Education
2 Collaborative, Breaking the Cycle of Health Disparities Inc., the Urban League of Greater
3 Atlanta, and Reach Out and Read Georgia and recognizing March 2021 as Georgia Reading
4 Awareness Month; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Read Aloud is a nonprofit organization that aims to engage partners across the
6 nation with the goal of encouraging parents to read to their children for at least 15 minutes
7 per day; and

8 WHEREAS, shared reading between parent/caregiver and child aids in building vocabulary
9 knowledge and word recognition, which are foundations for reading acquisition; and

10 WHEREAS, five to 12 percent of school-aged children are diagnosed with reading
11 difficulties, which can result in deficits in identifying speech sounds, the recall of the
12 conventional spelling system, and executive functions (i.e. attentions, working memory,
13 inhibition), as well as secondary deficits in reading comprehension; and

14 WHEREAS, third grade children shift from learning to read to reading to learn for
15 comprehension, which is an indicator of academic success; and

16 WHEREAS, thirty-seven percent of Georgia fourth graders are reading below the national
17 average for reading achievement; and

18 WHEREAS, reading proficiency at age seven is the best indicator for high school graduation,
19 regardless of poverty or parent/caregiver education status; and

20 WHEREAS, sixty-five percent of Georgia children qualify for free or reduced lunch based
21 on their socioeconomic status and perform worse on reading achievement compared to their
22 peers who do not qualify; and

23 WHEREAS, children's books are integral in promoting language and brain growth, and
24 studies have shown that low-income children are at risk of hearing 32 million fewer words
25 than their high-income peers by age four, which could impact later reading ability; and

26 WHEREAS, deficits in reading due to socioeconomic disadvantage only widen the gap in
27 academic achievement, further trapping children in a cycle of poverty; and

28 WHEREAS, we plan to build a resource directory of reading resources for Georgia families
29 in partnership with Reach Out and Read Georgia and the Fulton County Library; and

30 WHEREAS, we plan to donate bookmarks about the relevance of reading along with a
31 donation of books to Georgia children in rural and urban communities in collaboration with
32 Reach Out and Read Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, we aim to distribute a pamphlet of recommendations for how Georgia families
34 can incorporate reading 15 minutes per day with their children (regardless of access to books

35 or parent/caregiver literacy level) and information about how shared reading impacts the
36 developing brain; and

37 WHEREAS, we intend to amplify Read Aloud's 21 day reading challenge to encourage
38 children and their families to read and post on social media; and

39 WHEREAS, the support of the Georgia General Assembly will be beneficial in executing
40 Georgia Reading Awareness Month at a state level as it is recognized on a national scale in
41 the month of March.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body commend Science for Georgia, the Technology Association
44 Georgia Education Collaborative, Breaking the Cycle of Health Disparities Inc., the Urban
45 League of Greater Atlanta, and Reach Out and Read Georgia and recognize March 2021 as
46 Georgia Reading Awareness Month.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
49 Science for Georgia, the Technology Association Georgia Education Collaborative, Breaking
50 the Cycle of Health Disparities Inc., the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, and Reach Out and
51 Read Georgia.