

Senate Resolution 628

By: Senator Au of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 1, 2022, as Reach Out and Read Day at the state capitol to recognize the
2 power of reading to young children every day; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read's early literacy intervention began in 1989 at Boston
4 Medical Center and has expanded to 50 states, serving 5.7 million families today. Georgia's
5 affiliate office launched in 2012 and now serves 156,000 children and families in 70 counties
6 at 164 hospitals, practices, and clinics with 114 medical sites on a waiting list to participate;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read has trained 36,000 pediatricians and medical providers
9 who prescribe reading as a daily activity during wellness checkups; and

10 WHEREAS, over two million new children's books have been given to young children in
11 Georgia by pediatric providers beginning at the very first newborn visit through a child's fifth
12 birthday, and children in the program demonstrate a six-month developmental edge
13 compared to children not enrolled in the program when arriving at kindergarten; and

14 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read is the only early literacy intervention endorsed by the
15 American Academy of Pediatrics and has the most extensive body of research supporting the
16 efficacy of the program model with 22 studies supporting its work; and

17 WHEREAS, pediatricians prescribe reading as a daily activity and parents take these
18 prescriptions to heart, increasing social and emotional bonds with their children while
19 increasing their exposure to positive interactions and creating special, meaningful moments;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, positive emotional bonding between a parent and child has been demonstrated
22 to help mitigate the damaging effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES); and

23 WHEREAS, pediatric offices implementing Reach Out and Read have cited an increase in
24 wellness visit compliance during the earliest years of life, a time when most immunizations
25 occur; and

26 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read has the ability to serve as the intersection of education and
27 healthcare, offering unprecedented access to the pediatric community, children, and families;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia will provide quality, diverse, and developmentally
30 and linguistically appropriate books in 30 languages to medical sites across Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, 1,500 medical providers and staff implement the Reach Out and Read Georgia
32 program every day across the state, offering each child an opportunity to be read to and to
33 learn to read; and

34 WHEREAS, medical providers prescribe reading at every wellness visit beginning at birth
35 through age five.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 commend the efforts of Reach Out and Read to give young children a foundation for success
38 by incorporating books into the existing pediatric care infrastructure, encourage families in
39 Georgia to read aloud together each and every day, and recognize March 1, 2022, as Reach
40 Out and Read Day at the state capitol.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reach Out and
43 Read Georgia.