

## Senate Resolution 416

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Brass of the 28th, Kennedy of the 18th and  
Gooch of the 51st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 23, 2023, as Reach Out and Read Day at the state capitol to recognize  
2 the 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 189,700 children and families in 72 counties  
6 at 193 hospitals, pediatric practices, clinics, and home visiting program sites with 122  
7 medical sites that have applications in progress to become Reach Out and Read sites; and

8 WHEREAS, over 1,000 medical providers and staff have been trained in the Reach Out and  
9 Read Georgia program, offering each child an opportunity to be read to and to learn to read;  
10 and

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

13 WHEREAS, over the past 12 months, 379,400 well child checkups (approximately 189,700  
14 children) were conducted across Georgia with pediatricians and providers implementing the  
15 Reach Out and Read program; and

16 WHEREAS, in that same time, 215,793 new children's books were distributed through the  
17 program's pediatric network to children aged five years old and younger; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 commend the efforts of Reach Out and Read to give young children a foundation for success  
46 by incorporating books into the existing pediatric care infrastructure, encourage families in  
47 Georgia to read aloud together each and every day, and recognize March 23, 2023, as Reach  
48 Out and Read Day at the state capitol.

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