

Senate Resolution 15

By: Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, McLaurin of the 14th, Merritt of the 9th and Dixon of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 6, 2025, as Strolling Thunder Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, our brains grow faster during the first few years of life than at any later point
4 in our lives; and

5 WHEREAS, more than 635,000 children under five years old reside in communities across
6 Georgia, representing the state's future leaders; and

7 WHEREAS, children's early experiences and relationships lay the foundation for future
8 learning, health, and behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, proper nutrition, medical care, and high-quality early education are all essential
10 building blocks for a child's development; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia has made gains in supporting young children and their families in
12 recent years, including an historic investment in Georgia's Lottery-Funded Pre-K, an

13 increased emphasis on early childhood mental health, and increased supports for maternal
14 health and well-being; and

15 WHEREAS, despite this, many of Georgia's families with young children continue to
16 struggle to meet high standards of health, education, and family stability; and

17 WHEREAS, for example, nearly one in five of Georgia's children under five years old live
18 in poverty, and one in ten of its babies are born with low birth weight; and

19 WHEREAS, GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, a nonprofit
20 organization, has brought together families from across Georgia to share the joys and
21 challenges of raising young children with Georgia's lawmakers for Strolling Thunder Day
22 at the state capitol; and

23 WHEREAS, Strolling Thunder Day emphasizes the importance of prioritizing our youngest
24 learners in public policy for stronger families, vibrant communities, and a prosperous state;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia's future begins with babies, and all Georgians can help make sure that
27 families have the resources and support they need to give their babies a strong start in life.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize February 6, 2025, as Strolling Thunder Day at the state capitol.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
32 press.