

Senate Resolution 493

By: Senators Mallow of the 2nd, Halpern of the 39th, Esteves of the 35th, Jackson of the 41st, Jones II of the 22nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to  
2 provide by law for the creation of a Children First Trust Fund; to provide for the  
3 appropriation of moneys into such fund, including a one-time appropriation from the  
4 Revenue Shortfall Reserve; to provide that moneys appropriated into such fund shall not  
5 lapse and shall be used to provide scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial assistance  
6 for child care services; to provide for the investment and reinvestment of a portion of the  
7 moneys appropriated into such fund; to provide that returns on such investments shall be  
8 used for financial assistance for child care services; to provide for related matters; to provide  
9 for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### 11 SECTION 1.

12 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Constitution is amended by adding a new  
13 subparagraph to read as follows:

14 "(s) The General Assembly is authorized to provide by law for the creation of a Children  
15 First Trust Fund for the purpose of providing, in accordance with the provisions of this  
16 subparagraph, financial assistance for child care services in this state. Upon the creation  
17 of such Children First Trust Fund, the General Assembly shall make a one-time

18 appropriation in the amount of \$2 billion into such fund, which shall be appropriated from  
 19 the Revenue Shortfall Reserve. The General Assembly shall be authorized, but not  
 20 required, to appropriate additional amounts into such fund. All moneys appropriated into  
 21 the Children First Trust Fund shall not be subject to the provisions of Article III, Section  
 22 IX, Paragraph IV(c), relating to the lapsing of funds, and shall be used to provide  
 23 scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial assistance for child care services in this  
 24 state; provided, however, that a portion of the moneys appropriated to the Children First  
 25 Trust Fund shall be invested and reinvested in a manner as provided by law. Moneys  
 26 received from returns on such investments and reinvestments shall be deposited into the  
 27 Children First Trust Fund and shall be used to provide scholarships, grants, or other forms  
 28 of financial assistance for child care services in this state. The General Assembly shall be  
 29 authorized to provide by law for any matters relating to the purpose or provisions of this  
 30 subparagraph."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
 33 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the  
 34 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

35 "( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General  
 36 ( ) NO Assembly to use a portion of the state's historic, multi-year revenue surplus  
 37 to create a self-sustaining Children First Trust Fund for the purpose of  
 38 providing access to child care services in this state?"

39 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."  
 40 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If  
 41 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall  
 42 become a part of the Constitution of this state.