

Senate Resolution 588

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Watson of the 11th, Ginn of the 47th, Still of the 48th and Payne of the 54th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 29, 2026, 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, nearly 640,000 children under age 5 reside in communities across Georgia,  
6 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 historic investments in Georgia's Lottery-Funded Pre-K, an increased  
13 emphasis on early increased emphasis on early childhood mental health, and the creation of  
14 a state child tax credit; 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 age 5 live in  
18 poverty, and one in ten of its babies are born with low birthweight; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Strolling Thunder 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 January 29th, 2026, 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 Georgia Early  
32 Education Alliance for Ready Students.