

House Resolution 61

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Davis of the 87th, McLeod of the 105th, Scott of the 76th, Burnough of the 77th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Supporting the protection of essential workers; and for other purposes.

- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes that the need to safeguard the physical health
3 and financial stability of essential workers is more important than ever during this trying time
4 of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

- 5 WHEREAS, state and local governments' labor enforcement agencies are extremely
6 important for such efforts; and

- 7 WHEREAS, workers are potentially exposed to COVID-19 on the job, and some healthcare
8 workers, transit workers, grocery store workers, and other workers are dying from it, which
9 is unacceptable for these essential workers to whom we owe so much; and

- 10 WHEREAS, workers who have lost their jobs want more information about unemployment
11 insurance; and

- 12 WHEREAS, workers who are being required to work want to know if their particular job is
13 essential; and

14 WHEREAS, workers who are classified as essential workers have had to deal with unsafe
15 workplaces, potentially exposing them to healthcare risks that could be avoided during this
16 COVID-19 pandemic; and

17 WHEREAS, workers who need paid sick or family leave in order to care for themselves or
18 their families are trying to navigate a system of executive orders and new laws and are
19 looking to state and local governments for immediate assistance.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body support any state and federal legislation that provides the necessary
22 resources required to enforce workplace safety laws as well as executive orders passed at all
23 levels of government that protect and prioritize the needs of essential workers.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage the state and
25 federal government to issue guidance and enhance enforcement of COVID-19 specific
26 workplace guidance in Georgia in line with OSHA state plans.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support legislation that will
28 encourage state and local labor standards enforcement agencies to partner with local health
29 officials, such as city or county health departments, to jointly enforce safety and health
30 requirements.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support legislation that
32 mandates the dissemination of information about proper safety practices for workplace safety
33 and health for both the workers and the employers.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support legislation that
35 ensures that nonessential workers are not being required or pressured to work onsite in
36 violation of executive orders that require people to stay at home.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support increasing awareness
38 of law and policy information regarding stay at home rules and establishing a telephone
39 number that workers can call for information and enforcement.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body further support state and
41 federal legislation that would provide hazard pay for essential workers in order to thank them
42 for the sacrifices they have made during the pandemic.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
45 public and the press.