

## House Resolution 814

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Gabrielle Tobin; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, every August, there's excitement leading up to Gabrielle Tobin's birthday  
3 because, beginning in 2016 at the age of ten, she has been planting mustards seeds in the  
4 form of math tutoring and donating school supplies to Betty Gray Middle School, formerly  
5 Lindley Sixth Grade Academy, a Title I, under-resourced school, in Cobb County, Georgia.  
6 For more than seven years her willingness to help and positively impact her local community  
7 has been unwavering; and

8 WHEREAS, in March, 2020, when the Cobb County School District, like the rest of the  
9 country, announced that its school buildings were physically closing due to COVID-19, Betty  
10 Gray Middle School principal, Dr. Denise Magee, entrusted Gabrielle with developing and  
11 implementing a unique way to connect with the students virtually. This project, dubbed "For  
12 Math's Sake: Peer-to-Peer Videos," planted another mustard seed resulting in Gabrielle  
13 becoming the youngest recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award and Young Women of  
14 Distinction from the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta at just 14 years old; and

15 WHEREAS, this award is earned by fewer than 5percent of eligible Girl Scouts and is the  
16 highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouts. The Young Women of Distinction is

17 awarded to the top six projects out of approximately 100. To earn the award a Girl Scout  
18 Senior (9-10th grade) or Ambassador (11-12th grade) must complete a minimum of 80 hours  
19 to develop and implement a project that will make the world a better place, on a local,  
20 national, and global level; and

21 WHEREAS, the "For Math's Sake: Peer-to-Peer Videos," addresses the STEM issue of  
22 improving math proficiency and content mastery, i.e., achieving competency necessary for  
23 the next grade level for sixth grade students in Georgia middle schools and beyond.  
24 Additionally, it addresses the impact of school closures, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on  
25 students' ability to improve math proficiency and content mastery. Specifically, seven peers,  
26 Nandana Avasarala, Marissa Copeland, Coralie Hilaire, Megan Jones, Samar Kibe, Nicholas  
27 Roesel, and Joshua Stewart, all proficient in math, assisted Gabrielle with creating thirteen  
28 bilingual peer-to-peer videos explaining the sixth grade math curriculum. These videos help  
29 students engage in learning math in a fun, engaging, and stress-free environment and are  
30 available via schools' website or [40mustardseeds.org](http://40mustardseeds.org); and

31 WHEREAS, what started as a project to aid 671 students at "one school/one community,"  
32 has grown into a national initiative that is now touching school districts in Georgia, North  
33 Carolina, the Bahamas, and beyond, totaling more than 13,000 students; and

34 WHEREAS, Gabrielle has recorded more than 300 hours of community service and her  
35 project has garnered local and national recognition. For example, the videos continue to  
36 impact Georgia and beyond and were featured by LaVision, NPR, "The Rose Scott Show,"  
37 Points of Light, NBC-11 Alive, WSBTV-Channel 2, Fox 5, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*,  
38 and Good Morning America (GMA) 3: What You Need to Know. She received recognition  
39 from The Children's Museum as "Girls Making a Difference" in honor of International  
40 Women's Day and the Education Award from the Smyrna Mayor and City Council and was

41 honored as a 2020 Georgia Game Changer by WSB-TV. In 2020, Georgia School  
42 Superintendent Richards Woods stated, "We are always happy to celebrate Georgia's students  
43 and the ingenuity they bring to the classroom. . . . The For Math's Sake: Peer-to-Peer Videos  
44 project is an example of how young leaders can contribute to education and help their peers  
45 engage in learning mathematics in fun, engaging ways. . . . When we think of contextualizing  
46 learning, the essence of Mathematics, STEM/STEAM and Computer Science teaching and  
47 learning in Georgia, we want the results to be those that influence change and uplift the  
48 community at large. Gabrielle is a leader among her peers and has set an example for others  
49 to follow."; and

50 WHEREAS, in 2023, the 40 Mustard Seeds Foundation, a nonprofit Gabrielle founded in  
51 2020, partnered with Breakthrough Atlanta (BTA), a nonprofit launched by The Lovett  
52 School in 1996, on an innovative project-based-learning math initiative during BTA's  
53 six-week signature summer program, which is a component of its six-year, tuition-free,  
54 year-round program that seeks to increase academic opportunity for highly motivated  
55 underserved students to prepare them for college. Gabrielle developed the math initiative  
56 over a four-month period beginning in January, 2023, and recruited 15 high school math  
57 scholars, via application and teacher recommendations, to tutor 17 advanced math seventh  
58 grade BTA students. Beginning June 12 thru July 21, 2023, Gabrielle led a team of diverse  
59 high school students in the creation and development of weekly math lessons plans and  
60 games which would supplement the traditional teaching methods of the college fellow. From  
61 this initiative, the volunteers and Gabrielle had the opportunity to experience classroom  
62 preparation and to interact with students to make math more enjoyable. Additionally, they  
63 assisted the students in creating peer-to-peer math videos covering the pre-algebra topics they  
64 learned during the summer, giving BTA students a meaningful opportunity to create easily  
65 accessible content that can be used throughout the school year as a refresher or tutorial; and

66 WHEREAS, the outcome of the project was the creation of pre-algebra math tutorial  
67 animated videos by 17 seventh graders that demonstrated their understanding of key skills  
68 and concepts that allowed them to connect math with real world application and challenges.  
69 The videos are currently accessible to the total student body of 163 students in the seventh  
70 grade. According to BTA Director of Curriculum and Instructions, participants retained 84  
71 percent of their math skills from pre to post testing. Additionally, BTA's satisfaction survey  
72 states, "The partnership helped students engage and sustain inquiry during the learning  
73 process. The data indicates that students were invested during the summer, 87 percent noted  
74 they felt they could succeed at tasks they set their minds to and 91 percent felt they  
75 developed new skills that will help them academically. "; and

76 WHEREAS, Gabrielle has been an active member of Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta since  
77 kindergarten and dedicated much of her youth to community service. Gabrielle has also  
78 maintained high academics at the Lovett School since entering in 2011. In 2023, she was  
79 inducted into the National Honor Society and currently serves as co-president. She will also  
80 earn a Diploma Distinction in Community Service. For four years she earned first chair  
81 cellist, in the Honors String Collegium Orchestra. Since freshman year, she has participated  
82 as a varsity gymnast and competed at the GHSA state competition in three events. She serves  
83 on the Lovett Student Service Board and the Student Diversity Leadership Council. Gabrielle  
84 will attend Emory University in fall 2024 and major in biology with her ultimate goal of  
85 attending medical school with an eye on becoming an oncologist.

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
87 the members of this body recognize and commend Gabrielle Tobin for her numerous  
88 community service activities.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
90 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
91 Gabrielle Tobin.