

Senate Resolution 691

By: Senators Strickland of the 17th, Harbin of the 16th, Payne of the 54th, Parent of the 42nd and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 22, 2024, 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 650,000 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 increased emphasis on early childhood mental health and increased
13 support for maternal health and well-being, such as the pilot for rural home visiting; and

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

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

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

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

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

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize February 22, 2024, as Strolling Thunder Day at the state capitol.

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