

Senate Resolution 846

By: Senator Payne of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 3-7, 2022, as Georgia Pre-K Week; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot
3 program serving 750 students and now provides quality early education experiences to more
4 than half of the state's four-year-old children; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program has been formally administered statewide by Bright
6 from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning since 2004. This year marks
7 the 30th anniversary of the program; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K has helped prepare approximately 1.6 million of Georgia's
9 children for success in kindergarten and beyond since it began; and
- 10 WHEREAS, children in Georgia's Pre-K show significant gains across all learning domains
11 regardless of gender and income differences. Findings from the longitudinal study on
12 Georgia's Pre-K being conducted by Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
13 showed that these gains were sustained through the end of first grade; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators - one from a
15 public school system and one from a private child care center - as Georgia's Pre-K Program
16 Teachers of the Year for 2021-2022: Stephanie Curington from Kings Chapel Elementary
17 School in Perry, Georgia and LaNita Carey from Jackson Creek Academy in Lilburn,
18 Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia
20 with more than 2,400 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality
21 improvement system for child care programs; and

22 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy
23 generating \$4.7 billion of economic activity annually and providing more than 67,000 jobs
24 in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

25 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000
26 children a year in approximately 4,500 early care and education centers, including family
27 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
28 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

29 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will host Georgia Pre-K Week the 12th
30 consecutive year during the first full week of October; and

31 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia will provide quality Pre-K books to legislators as
32 a part of its commitment to improve early literacy throughout the state.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize October 3-7, 2022, as "Georgia Pre-K Week"; thank the hundreds of programs,

35 teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K Program and other
36 high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators, community
37 members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and to support high
38 quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great State of
39 Georgia.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Voices for Georgia's Children.