

House Resolution 134

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Wiedower of the 121st, Mathiak of the 74th, Jackson of the 165th, and Newton of the 127th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2023, 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 infant and early childhood mental health
13 and increased support for maternal health and well-being, such as the extension of pregnancy
14 Medicaid; 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 four of Georgia's children under five years old live
18 in poverty, and one in ten of its babies are born with low birth weight; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Strolling Thunder Day 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize February 7, 2023, as Strolling Thunder Day at the state
30 capitol and welcome these families and their children to the capitol.

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