

House Resolution 1564

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94th, Dickey of the 145th, Carter of the 93rd, Cameron of the 1st, and Lewis-Ward of the 115th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the
3 lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life; and
- 4 WHEREAS, food security is defined as the access by all people at all times to enough food
5 that is nutritionally adequate and meets individual and collective consumer preferences; and
- 6 WHEREAS, food insecurity is associated with numerous adverse social and health outcomes
7 and is increasingly considered a critical public health issue; and
- 8 WHEREAS, food insecurity is associated with serious, potentially dire, health complications
9 in adults and children; and
- 10 WHEREAS, more than 500,000 children, 1 in 8 Georgians, do not have consistent access to
11 enough nutritious food, which can have long-term effects on their health and future; and

12 WHEREAS, children who are food insecure are more likely to be held back a grade in
13 elementary school, are more likely to be sick and hospitalized, and are more likely to have
14 growth and developmental issues; and

15 WHEREAS, in the United States, households that are more likely to become food insecure
16 includes low-income households, households headed by women, and minority households;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, key drivers of food insecurity include unemployment, poverty, and income
19 shocks, which can prevent adequate access to food; and

20 WHEREAS, multiple interventions have been shown to reduce food insecurity, including
21 participation in food assistance programs and broader societal-level improvements in
22 economic stability; and

23 WHEREAS, seniors on a fixed income experience greater healthcare costs which often lead
24 to difficult decisions, like having to choose between paying for healthy food, medications,
25 or utilities; and

26 WHEREAS, rural Georgians face hunger at higher rates due to challenges such as an
27 increased likelihood of food deserts and less access to food pantries; and

28 WHEREAS, food insecurity has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic and food banks
29 report an increase of 40 percent since January 1, 2023.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES the
31 members of this body create the House Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity to bring

32 together the state's charitable emergency food providers, state and local governments,
33 healthcare providers, advocacy groups, farmers, business and industry, and community
34 members to learn and identify appropriate solutions to eradicate hunger in Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 public and the press.