A Resolution
in support of early childhood education
in the Georgia budget

WHEREAS, the Lowndes County Democratic Party (LCDP) has as its first platform plank: "Georgia Democrats believe every child in every classroom in every school in every county in Georgia should have access to a high quality public education"; and

WHEREAS, the LCDP agrees with the Education & Workforce Policy Committee of the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce that early education is connected to a community’s long-term economic development potential; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget from the Georgia Governor’s office includes the following item in the Department of Early Care and Learning Budget:

- $5.5M for tiered reimbursement for Quality Rated child care programs; and

WHEREAS, Quality Rated child care programs are those that have demonstrated they are using best practices to help prepare children for kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, The state funds for tiered reimbursement would be added to existing federal funds the state receives, thus encouraging more child care programs to participate in Quality Rated and to serve more children in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program; and

WHEREAS, The goal of this budget line item is to increase the number of, and thereby access to, high quality child care programs, especially for children who need it the most; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Budget also includes two other appropriations that support early learning:

- $2M for Early Language and Literacy Classroom Grants
- $2.7M to create the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy"; and

WHEREAS, the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Grants would support 50 birth-through-three-year-old classrooms across the state in implementing strong language and literacy instruction for children in the earliest, and most critical, years of life, intended to advance the Governor’s goal of every child in Georgia reading on grade level by the end of third grade by supporting their earliest teachers through coaching and professional development.
WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy would promote research-based practices related to early language development and literacy for children from birth to age eight and their families and teachers. The Center, which would be housed at Georgia College and State University (GCSU), would conduct think tank-type research activities and provide practical supports for implementing effective early language and literacy strategies in classrooms. The Center would be a new resource for birth to three teachers; and

WHEREAS, these proposals in the Governor's are each in the best interest of Georgia's children and families; and

WHEREAS, support of children directly translates into support for the future of our state; and

WHEREAS, these proposals in the Governor's budget align with the education plank above quoted of the LCDP platform;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lowndes County Democratic Party (LCDP) that LCDP supports the above-listed three planks in the Governor's proposed budget for Georgia.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE LOWNDES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, GEORGIA,

this 6th day of February 2017.

By: _________________________

Attest: ________________________