

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1232\***

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Sponsors: Senators Jones; and Berger of Franklin.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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May 19, 2010

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO  
2 MAKE CERTAIN TEMPORARY FEDERAL TAX CREDIT CHANGES PERMANENT,  
3 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON  
4 POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

5 Whereas, the current economic recession disproportionately affects low- and  
6 moderate-income working families and low-wage workers; and

7 Whereas, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act expanded certain tax  
8 credits in 2009, thereby benefiting hundreds of thousands of North Carolina's low- and  
9 moderate-income families; and

10 Whereas, the expanded tax benefits included enhancements to the earned income tax  
11 credit, the child tax credit, and the American opportunity tax credit; and

12 Whereas, Congress enacted the earned income tax credit in 1975 and, through  
13 various expansions, lifted approximately 6.6 million Americans, including 3.3 million children,  
14 out of poverty in 2009; and

15 Whereas, more than 825,000 North Carolina families benefit from the federal  
16 earned income tax credit; and

17 Whereas, Congress created the child tax credit in 1997 to help families meet the  
18 costs of raising children and expanded the credit in 2009 to reach many low-income working  
19 families; and

20 Whereas, the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit offer low- and  
21 moderate-wealth individuals and parents an incentive to seek work and higher wages and are  
22 the largest and most effective federal antipoverty programs, collectively reducing the overall  
23 poverty rate by 20% and the child poverty rate by 33% in 2009; and

24 Whereas, the American opportunity tax credit was expanded by Congress to provide  
25 education benefits for the first time to 3.8 million low- and moderate-income college students  
26 and is one of the best long-term investments to expand the skills of unemployed workers and to  
27 enable low- and moderate-income prospective students to enroll in college; and

28 Whereas, these enhanced tax credits are scheduled to expire in 2011 without  
29 Congressional action, thereby reducing or eliminating the credit for millions of low- or  
30 moderate-wealth children, individuals, and families at a time of increased financial hardship;  
31 Now, therefore,

32 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

33 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly of North Carolina urges the members of the  
34 Congress of the United States from North Carolina to support the introduction and passage of  
35 legislation making the enhancements to the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and  
36 the American opportunity tax credit permanent.



- 1           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly of North Carolina urges Congress to pass the
- 2   legislation making the enhancement of the tax credits permanent.
- 3           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.