

## House Resolution 1612

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Alexander of the 66<sup>th</sup>, and Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 21st Annual Youth and Family Convocation; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, "Stop the Violence, Turn Up the Peace," is the topic of the 21st Annual Youth  
 3 and Family Convocation, an event of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy (YHBA) of  
 4 Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC); the Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan  
 5 Atlanta will join the Youth Hope-Builders Academy for this convocation that will call the  
 6 Black religious community to claim its accountability, responsibility, and commitment to do  
 7 all in its power to end the violence that is gripping our communities and to bring peace, set  
 8 an example for our young people to follow, and stand with them in peace-promoting  
 9 activities; and

10 WHEREAS, the event will start with a free rally on February 21, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30  
 11 p.m. at First Iconium Baptist Church in Atlanta; it will highlight youth calling for action that  
 12 brings peace, including a high school drama group, choir, church steppers, youth speakers,  
 13 rappers, dancers, and a poster parade; they will be joined by adult community leaders; and

14 WHEREAS, the rally will be followed by an all day event on Saturday, February 22, with  
 15 on-site registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the convocation proceedings from 8:45 a.m.  
 16 - 3:30 p.m. at Friendship Community Church in College Park; workshops led by noted  
 17 leaders will be offered for all ages that invites the whole village to reflect on their roles in  
 18 peace-making and decide on specific, intentional, and determined steps they will take to  
 19 "Stop the Violence and Turn Up the Peace."; and

20 The annual convocation is a signature event of ITC that began in an ITC Christian education  
 21 class of Dr. Anne Streaty Wimberly; in that class, the professor and students joined together  
 22 in voicing the need for the religious community to come together across the denominational  
 23 spectrum to address critical issues faced by our youth and families; the intent was to  
 24 highlight the importance of "village" solidarity, communication, and common endeavors  
 25 directed toward the common good; and

26 WHEREAS, following the success of the first convocation, the decision was made to  
27 continue it as a class project; each year, the convocation focuses on a "hot button" issue  
28 identified by the class such as health, hip-hop culture, Christian values formation, Black  
29 history, bullying, and living in tech-culture; participation has increased from 173 at the first  
30 convocation to 1,000 and above at later convocations.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body commend the 21st Annual Youth and Family Convocation for its  
33 program to end the violence that is gripping our communities and to bring peace and wish  
34 it continued success in this and future programs.