

## Senate Resolution 713

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Tippins of the 37th, Millar of the 40th, Miller of the 49th and Strickland of the 17th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Be THE Voice and their efforts toward bettering the lives of students through  
2 bringing awareness to bullying and taking preventative measures to stop it; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Be THE Voice is a three-month peer-led bystander empowerment campaign,  
5 created by Debbie Cwalina and Michael Schoppenhorst, which focuses on diminishing  
6 instances of bullying in the lives of students today; and

7 WHEREAS, Be THE Voice centers around the belief that student bystanders – or students  
8 who happen to witness any instances of bullying – are the true agents of change when it  
9 comes to bullying; and

10 WHEREAS, statistics show that over 13 million kids throughout America will be bullied this  
11 year alone, making bullying the most common form of violence that is experienced by young  
12 people within the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, in today's society, bullying has transcended to a whole new level in that it can  
14 now take place through social media outlets, where bullies are able to hide their faces while  
15 still leaving a child feeling helpless and alone; and

16 WHEREAS, children as young as 11 years old are choosing to take their own lives as  
17 opposed to suffering through another day of being bullied, and something must be done to  
18 stop this; and

19 WHEREAS, studies show that bullying stops within ten seconds when a bystander chooses  
20 to intervene on behalf of the victim, and for this reason Be THE Voice focuses on  
21 empowering student bystanders to find their voices when witnessing instances of bullying;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Be THE Voice launched in eight Roswell area schools in October 2015, and in  
24 their initial beta test they observed an extraordinary 56 percent decrease in bullying; and

25 WHEREAS, the founders of Be THE Voice partnered with the Roswell Rotary, and their  
26 success led to their being named Rotarians of the Year in 2016; and

27 WHEREAS, to date, Be THE Voice has positively impacted the lives of over 20,000 students  
28 over the course of its 18-month tenure; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this exemplary organization be  
30 recognized for its life-changing impact in the lives of young people.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 honor Be THE Voice and their efforts toward bettering the lives of students through bringing  
33 awareness to bullying and taking preventative measures to stop it.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Be THE Voice.