IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING SONIA GALAVIZ FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HER STUDENTS AND HER EXEMPLARY CONDUCT AS AN IDAHO TEACHER.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Sonia Galaviz was raised in northern Idaho in a family in which her parents achieved only an eighth-grade education, yet she grew up understanding the importance of hard work and education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz graduated from Kellogg High School before moving to the Treasure Valley to attend Boise State University; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Ms. Galaviz received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Boise State University and began her teaching career teaching kindergarten in the Nampa School District; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Ms. Galaviz received her master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a bilingual emphasis from Boise State University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz believes in creating a classroom culture involving the family and home cultures and takes time to visit each student's home before the start of the school year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz builds partnerships with her students and their families and designs curriculum to include the families in projects, the scaffolds that help them help their children with homework, and the opportunities to visit the classroom and celebrate their students' work; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz encourages students to help their communities by volunteering with organizations such as Rake Up Boise and the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Ms. Galaviz was named the Endeavor Elementary Teacher of the Year awarded by the Nampa School District; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ms. Galaviz was named as one of the Idaho Business Review's Women of the Year for her outstanding leadership, mentoring efforts and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Ms. Galaviz was recognized by the Southern Poverty Law Center with the Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Culturally Responsive Teaching for finding her students' hidden strengths through her home visits and for supplementing her curriculum with authentic materials and experiences that reflect the cultures of her Mexican-American, Asian, American Indian and white students; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Ms. Galaviz was awarded the Sam Cikaitoga Award by the Idaho Education Association for her work in helping her students celebrate the ways they are alike and downplaying their differences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz dedicates numerous efforts to bring STEM engagement to her students at Garfield Elementary School in the Boise School Dis-

trict and works to create community partnerships to further STEM education not only for her students but also for others; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Galaviz was awarded a \$10,000 grant from NASA and Boise State University to create STEM backpacks for the students at Garfield Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ms. Galaviz was honored by the Idaho STEM Action Center with the Industry's Excellent Educators Dedicated to STEM, or INDEEDS, Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ms. Galaviz received the Marsha Nakamura Teaching Excellence Award by the Idaho Education Association for her professional practice, advocacy, community engagement, leadership in professional development and attention to diversity; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2017, Ms. Galaviz received the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, the top award out of forty national finalists, for attaining the highest teaching standards, her exemplary instruction, her advocacy for her profession and her staunch support for public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize and honor Sonia Galaviz as an exemplary teacher and Idaho citizen for her unparalleled devotion to her students and their families, her success with diverse classrooms and community groups, her passion for STEM education, and her consummate service to the Idaho education profession.