

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1717

A RESOLUTION recognizing Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs.

WHEREAS, According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who are proficient in reading by the end of third grade are more likely to graduate from high school and be economically successful in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, A 2022 study conducted by the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center revealed that 64% of White, 83% of Hispanic and 85% of Black fourth graders in Kansas scored below the "proficient" reading level; and

WHEREAS, Many underserved populations in Kansas are lacking the quality literacy skills essential for future success in school and life; and

WHEREAS, Storytime Village, Inc., under the leadership of founder and CEO Prisca Barnes, has been working since 2009 to help Kansas children, beginning at birth through age eight, thrive through partnerships that provide early childhood development, family engagement involving reading, access to books, advocacy and awareness; and

WHEREAS, With the support of parents and the help of many dedicated volunteers, Storytime Village, Inc., inspires children to read, regardless of their socio-economic background, race or gender, by providing them free books and literacy resources; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Storytime Village, Inc., launched their Literacy Champions program, a high school leadership program that empowers and inspires students to volunteer and gain leadership skills as they impact the literacy issue in their communities; and

WHEREAS, March 23, 2023, is designated as the 6th Annual Literacy Day at the Capitol, which will address the literacy achievement gap in Kansas by focusing on early literacy and mobilizing high school students to raise their voices through meetings with legislators, panel discussions and an advocacy workshop, with the theme: "Right from the Start: Helping our Youngest Thrive through Literacy": Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Prisca Barnes and Senator Faust Goudeau.

Senate Resolution No. 1717 was sponsored by Senators Oletha Faust Goudeau and Chase Blasi.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.