

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 537

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Memphis Center for Independent Living on its collaboration with STEP in providing Parents' Rights training.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and specially distinguish those organizations whose stated goals advance the most noble precepts of human endeavor and whose history of service in pursuing those goals represents an outstanding example to all who are touched by that record; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the Memphis Center for Independent Living located at 1633 Madison Avenue. It is a community-based, nonprofit agency which has a primary mission of facilitating the full integration of persons with disabilities into all aspects of civic life; and

WHEREAS, since 1987, the Memphis Center for Independent Living has been the hub of a network of action, information, and resources to assist disabled citizens to conquer the barriers, the isolation, and the dependency that are inadvertently yet insidiously woven throughout the fabric of our society and its institutions; and

WHEREAS, the manifestation of mental, physical, emotional vulnerabilities do significantly alter an individual's opportunities to partake of essential and extraordinary life activities, and the hope and optimism evinced through the good works of the Memphis Center for Independent Living have produced transformational effects on many who live with ability-altering conditions; and

WHEREAS, the rapid evolvment of science and technology has fueled a wondrous mitigation of the lack of ease disabled persons experience in their lives. Simultaneously, many of these advancements are enabling earlier detection and identification of cognitive, neurological, and physical impairments in even the youngest of children and infants, having

great import for the success of their early, elementary, and secondary education and life skills development; and

WHEREAS, parents are truly the first teachers of their children and their best advocates with the institutions of public education and family support, and the Memphis Center for Independent Living has embraced a functional affiliation with a like-minded entity, Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, or STEP; and

WHEREAS, STEP is a statewide family-to-family program established in 1989 to support families by providing free information, advocacy training, and support services to parents of children eligible to receive special education services under key federal education and disability rights laws and administrative rules; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of their common missions on behalf of differently abled persons, the Memphis Center for Independent Living has served as a host site for the delivery of STEP's Parents' Rights Training curriculum, enabling parents and caregivers in the communities of Memphis to avail themselves of relevant knowledge and requisite skills to work effectively with the public education system, maximizing the learning potential and education acquisition of their children; and

WHEREAS, it is commendable that these two fine organizations have provided meaningful, enriching experiences for parents and caregivers of exceptional children while demonstrating remarkable organizational behaviors of cooperation and collaboration to benefit their mutual constituency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we applaud the joint efforts of the Memphis Center for Independent Living and the Support and Training for Exceptional Parents organizations for their collaborative efforts to provide advocacy and support services for adults, children, and families whose lives are altered in significant ways by physical, mental, cognitive, and developmental disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.