

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 701

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Do the Write Thing Challenge.

WHEREAS, an initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence, the Do the Write Thing (DtWT) Challenge is a writing program for middle school students that positions them as community catalysts as they examine the root causes and effects of youth violence; and

WHEREAS, the DtWT Challenge gives students an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives in classroom discussions and in written form by communicating what they think should be done to change the culture of violence; and

WHEREAS, since the program's inception, more than 2.5 million students have participated, with upward of 85,000 written submissions per year; the DtWT Challenge has been implemented in twenty-six participating communities across the nation, including Jackson/Madison County and Memphis/Shelby County, and a statewide program is being organized to include other Tennessee communities; and

WHEREAS, each year, educators encourage middle school students to answer three questions involving youth violence, including its causes, how youth violence has affected a student's life, and ways in which a student might help reduce youth violence; after evaluation, the girl and boy who submit the most responsive writings from their community are selected to serve as DtWT Challenge National Ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Zya Sails from North Parkway Middle School, Jesse Haynes from Jackson Careers and Technology, Angel Daniel from Memphis Business Academy, and Treasure Burchett from Germantown Middle School were selected. These students, along with a parent and teacher of each student, attended Do the Write Thing National Recognition Week, July 15-19, 2023, in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, while visiting our nation's capital, the National Ambassadors participated in an awards dinner at the Kuwait Ambassador's residence, toured the Library of Congress and U.S. Supreme Court, and had the opportunity to present their views on youth violence to their members of Congress; in addition, a leather-bound volume of their writings was published and placed in the Library of Congress, and a culminating banquet for the students was held at the National Press Club; and

WHEREAS, by encouraging students to make personal commitments to do something about the problem of youth violence, the Do the Write Thing Challenge seeks to empower young people to break the cycles of violence in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the National Campaign to Stop Violence's Do the Write Thing Challenge for its determined efforts to combat youth violence and provide a safe and secure environment for all young people within our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.