

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1140

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Hamilton County Drug Court and its graduates.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary government programs that save lives while also conserving public resources; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Drug Court is one such outstanding program that is worthy of emulation by other Tennessee local governments; and

WHEREAS, in May 2012 during National Drug Court Month, the people of Hamilton county will celebrate the graduation of five more individuals from its Drug Court, joining the 67 others who have previously graduated; and

WHEREAS, this event will recognize the men and women who have completed Drug Court and are leaving the program as productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Drug Court is truly making a difference by reducing drug use and recidivism, reuniting families, and making the community safer; and

WHEREAS, in November 2005, Hamilton County opened its doors to a new paradigm known as Drug Court, an alternative sentencing program for non-violent drug offenders; and

WHEREAS, presently serving 61 clients, Drug Court is a proven budget solution for Hamilton County; in addition to transforming lives, the program saves valuable state and local resources; and

WHEREAS, the average daily cost of placing an individual in Drug Court is only \$10.89, thus saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in incarceration costs, and Tennessee taxpayers have been saved millions of dollars by the ten babies born to clients coming into the world drug-free, not addicted; and

WHEREAS, Drug Court clients must secure employment within thirty days of completing residential treatment, yet the unemployment rate is much lower than the state rate overall; and

WHEREAS, graduating clients are also required to fulfill their societal obligations relative to victim restitution, child support, and completion of high school; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Drug Court is rebuilding shattered individuals through a winning combination of drug treatment and personal responsibility, and its most recent graduates should be applauded for transforming their lives in a positive way; 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 hereby honor and recognize the Hamilton County Drug Court upon its innovative and effective approach to treating drug offenders and returning them to society as useful citizens. We congratulate the May 2012 graduates of the program for throwing off the bonds of addiction to lead productive lives and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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