

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 72

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Candice McQueen for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Department of Education.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Candice McQueen served as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education for nearly four years; she recently accepted a new position as Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, bringing to a close her exemplary tenure of service to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, appointed by Governor Bill Haslam, Dr. Candice McQueen was sworn in as the head of the Department of Education on January 17, 2015, and, over the past four years, she led a statewide effort to create a new, bold strategic plan for schools called Tennessee Succeeds that focused on increasing postsecondary and career readiness for all Tennessee students; and

WHEREAS, prior to her appointment as commissioner of education, Dr. McQueen served as Senior Vice President and Dean of the College of Education at Lipscomb University; she holds a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University, a master's degree from Vanderbilt University, and a doctorate from the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Dr. McQueen worked with Governor Haslam and the General Assembly to pass the largest investments in K-12 education without a tax increase in Tennessee's history; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, Tennessee announced the State's highest graduation rate in its history at 89.1 percent, best overall ACT score of 20.1, a record-high number of

students taking and attaining credit for early college coursework, and its first-ever A rating for its standards and the rigor of its tests; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McQueen also oversaw Tennessee's refocus and reinvestment in literacy with a statewide Read to be Ready campaign, which includes new standards with comprehensive guidance and training for teaching reading, a statewide coaching network for elementary reading teachers, and summer camps for students who are furthest behind; and

WHEREAS, during her extensive professional career, Dr. Candice McQueen has served as a classroom teacher, university faculty member, and department chair; she has served as a member of the board of Tennessee's higher education system, the executive board of the Council for Chief State School Officers, the governing board for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and as a commissioner of the Education Commission of the States; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Candice McQueen is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Dr. Candice McQueen for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Department of Education and wish her all the best in her 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.