

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 109

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Jamie Woodson for her service as the executive chairman and chief executive officer of SCORE.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this General Assembly to recognize those intrepid individuals who have devoted their careers to improving the quality of education in this State, contributing significantly to the well-being of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Woodson is one such estimable individual, who recently stepped down as the executive chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) after more than seven years of astute leadership at the organization; and

WHEREAS, SCORE was founded in 2009 by former U.S. Senator Bill Frist as a nonpartisan, nonprofit education organization that drives collaboration to support K-12 education in Tennessee and measures success by student academic growth; in her role as executive chairman and CEO, Ms. Woodson set the strategic vision for SCORE, led the executive team, and built and strengthened the organization's partnerships with leaders in education in Tennessee and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, SCORE's multifaceted approach to improving education in Tennessee includes initiatives that fall under the categories of Advocating For Students, Empowering Educators, Researching & Sharing Innovations, and Convening & Collaborating; since its inception in 2009, SCORE has stayed focused on its mission and seen measurable success across the State; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Woodson became executive chairman and CEO of SCORE in 2011, when it had been in operation for only two years; once at the helm of this burgeoning

organization, Ms. Woodson proved herself a capable and enthusiastic leader, ushering SCORE toward even greater success; and

WHEREAS, during Ms. Woodson's tenure, SCORE began a three-year implementation of higher standards into all K-12 classrooms; after only two years, Tennessee was named the fastest-improving state on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), and in 2015, the State ranked in the top twenty-five on NAEP in fourth-grade math. The following year, Tennessee reached the top 25 on NAEP in fourth- and eighth-grade science; and

WHEREAS, in the 2016-2017 school year, SCORE helped facilitate extensive public input for the Tennessee Succeeds plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, one of the first approved by the United States Department of Education and praised for its "explicit and coherent vision for school improvement"; and

WHEREAS, focused on empowering educators, Jamie Woodson valued educator feedback so much that she embarked on a listening tour in 2011 to speak with educators regarding the new teacher evaluation system, subsequently issuing a report and recommendations for improvement; six years later, seventy-four percent of teachers on the Tennessee Educator Survey reported the teacher evaluation process helped improve their teaching; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodson made it a priority to support teachers and administrators through programs such as the Tennessee Educator Fellowship, a one-year program to help school-level educators grow as education policy experts and advocates for student-focused policy, and Tennessee (LIFT) Education, an organization of student-centered Tennessee superintendents with the goal of elevating and expanding quality instruction and student success in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Woodson's tenure also saw the advent of the SCORE Prize, an annual celebration of Tennessee schools and districts that are leaders in learning; the data-informed prize identifies districts and elementary, middle, and high schools with strong student achievement and shares their strategies for student success; SCORE also issued its first *State*

*of Education in Tennessee* report and created the Tennessee Educational Innovation Fund, a philanthropic endeavor to foster innovation that improves student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodson's other successes as leader of SCORE include the SCORE Institute, which brings national and international education thought leaders to Tennessee for a series of discussions on education improvement; a Leadership Summit, which highlights best practices in district and school leadership; the Better Health, Better Learning Summit, which partners with Nashville Health and brings together 450 health and education professionals; and the Future Ready Summit, which explores how Tennessee can offer routes to postsecondary education, careers, and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodson supports student-focused education policy and practice by serving as a member of the board at the University of Tennessee; a board member and chairman of PIE (Policy Innovators in Education) Network; a board member and vice chairman of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and University Association; and a board member at The Columbia Group; and

WHEREAS, she is also an alumna of the Pahara-Aspen Institute Fellowship in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education, the Hunt Kean Leadership Fellows, Leadership Knoxville, Leadership Tennessee, and the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader in her community, Jamie Woodson is co-chair of the Knight Commission on Media, Trust, and Democracy; a member and former chairman of the Tennessee Wildlife Commission; and a member of the Tennessee Business Roundtable Board of Directors, the University of Tennessee Political Science Advisory Board, and the alumni board at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining SCORE in 2011, Jamie Woodson served in both houses of the General Assembly; during her more than twelve years as a legislator, she served as chairman of the Senate Education Committee and Senate Speaker Pro Tempore. She spearheaded efforts to identify and support effective teaching, raise academic expectations for Tennessee students, turn around low-performing schools, and support student-focused innovation, and she was a key leader in Tennessee's work to transform public higher education

by aligning Tennessee's postsecondary system and the State's economic goals through changes in academic, fiscal, and administrative policies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woodson grew up in Tennessee and attended Shelby County public schools; she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she was selected as a Torchbearer, the highest honor bestowed upon an undergraduate, and served on the freshman council and as student government association president; and

WHEREAS, as Jamie Woodson embarks upon a new chapter in her life, she is most worthy of approbation; 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 honor and commend Jamie Woodson for her service to the citizens of this State as the executive chairman and chief executive officer of SCORE, extending our gratitude for her many years of exemplary work toward improving education in Tennessee and our best wishes for her continued success.

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