

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 258

By Oliver

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Metro Nashville Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Team and its Emmy-winning documentary *Every Student Known: The Creation of an Anthem*.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud to be the home of various genres of music that are essential components of the American musical landscape; from Bristol, the birthplace of country music, to Memphis, the blues capital of the world, musicians across the State continue to inspire and influence others with their astounding artistry; and

WHEREAS, recently, students from Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) showcased their dedication, ability, and creativity in writing and recording "Every Student Known" and its Spanish-language counterpart, "Cada Estudiante Valorado"; and

WHEREAS, toward the end of the 2023-2024 school year, MNPS's Visual and Performing Arts director, Franklin Willis, put out a call for students from across the district to contribute their thoughts about what the concept "every student known" means to them; the district then convened for a four-day songwriting summit in the summer of 2024, with students visiting Capitol Christian Music Group and recording at Universal Music Group (UMG) Nashville's studio in Berry Hill; and

WHEREAS, students worked with two MNPS music specialists, DaJuana Hammonds and Bryson Finney, to write and record the song; Capitol Christian Music Group and UMG Nashville donated their studios and services, and Music Makes Us paid for the production of a music video and a nine-minute documentary about the students and the recording process; and

WHEREAS, the heartwarming documentary *Every Student Known: The Creation of an Anthem* witnesses the power of music as it brings together students of all backgrounds,

fostering a sense of unity and community; through candid interviews, behind-the-scenes footage, and the final performance, the film shows how collaboration, determination, and passion can lead to something truly extraordinary; and

WHEREAS, the documentary won a Midsouth Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences on February 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, "Every Student Known," which debuted at an event on Music Row in the summer of 2024, is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube, as is the Spanish-language version of the song, "Cada Estudiante Valorado," which was translated by Manuel Delgado of Delgado Guitars and released to YouTube on February 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Director Franklin Willis and his team have worked on a curriculum based on the song that has been made available to arts educators throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, the talented students who created and participated in "Every Student Known" are Leslie Hammonds, Aariah McEwen, Savannah Bell, Kingston Kharif, Kinston Smith, Jordyn Harris, Darren Sadler, Zoe Sobecki, Corinne Bryan, Luca McLaughlin, and Journei Butler; and

WHEREAS, the talented students who created and participated in "Cada Estudiante Valorado" are Enrique Jahuey-Muthe, Gabriella Flores-Rodriguez, Michelle Chourio, Jetzibell Cardona, Luzaida Garzon, Andres Ledezma, Angel Lopez Diaz, and Jason Rios; and

WHEREAS, these students helped bring to life the message behind the concept "every student known": working every day to understand every student's talents, interests, passions, and possibilities while helping them to overcome challenges; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor the hard work and talent of the students of Metro Nashville Public Schools as well as their beautiful song and outstanding documentary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Visual and Performing Arts team of Metro Nashville Public Schools for the song "Every Student Known" and the Emmy-winning documentary *Every Student Known: The Creation of an Anthem*.

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.