

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 531

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to encourage participation in the Military Child Education Coalition program.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the armed forces and are due the respect and admiration of the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, the children of our military men and women face special challenges due to the military service of their parents as two million American children have been affected by deployment of family members since 2001; and

WHEREAS, residing in every community in America, these children have faced repetitive separation from parents and other loved ones, and, for many, such challenges have included learning to live the “new normal” necessitated by injury, illness, and loss; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that the State of Tennessee reach out to assist the military children of Tennessee via public engagement by caring communities, which are committed to the well-being of its children, identifying community and state capabilities, and synchronizing existing resources in support of our military-connected children; and

WHEREAS, to such end, the State of Tennessee should establish and support the establishment of a Military Child Education Coalition in our state similar to those adopted in sister states who also are home to a large number of service men and women and their families; and

WHEREAS, established in 1998, the Military Child Education Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition; and

WHEREAS, the Military Child Education Coalition has developed a process where key community leaders work together to create a structure for their “hometown heroes” by identifying community capabilities, and coordinating existing resources; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such a program across our state would prove to be a great benefit to the citizens of Tennessee and provide much needed assistance to the children of our military men and women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we resolutely support our military men and women and their families in Tennessee as we give our strongest endorsement of the Military Child Education Coalition and the establishment of such a program in Tennessee.

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