

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 55

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to raise awareness of the importance of positive male role models in schools.

WHEREAS, many children in our country do not have positive father figures or male role models involved in their education, as, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, 17.25 million children are being raised in a single-mother family; and

WHEREAS, children who have fathers or positive male role models involved in their education are more likely to get better grades, have better verbal and problem solving skills, and do better on achievement tests; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education reported in 2012 that such children also demonstrate a higher tolerance for stress and frustration and are more likely to have positive peer relationships, to participate in extracurricular activities, and to have fewer discipline problems; and

WHEREAS, studies have also shown that the involvement of a father or positive male role model in the lives of children promotes a child's physical well-being, greater ability to take initiative, and evidence of self-control; and

WHEREAS, school systems across the nation have started to address this issue in various ways, including hiring male staff, recruiting male volunteers and PTA members, and encouraging fathers to be involved in their children's school through field trips and advisory boards, as well as holding special events throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to the State of Tennessee that our schools find ways to connect their students with positive father figures and male role models to improve the quality of education for our children; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education should work to raise awareness of the need for positive father figures and male role models in every school in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the local education agencies of Tennessee, with assistance from the Department of Education, to develop programs to place more positive male role models in our schools and classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the commissioner of the Department of Education for distribution to every local education agency in the State of Tennessee.