

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 858

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to commemorate National Healthy Schools Day.

WHEREAS, Tennessee raised expectations for student and teacher performance by advancing bold reforms to provide communities and educators with tools, resources, and schools to improve student achievement and by slowly replacing toxic products with green alternatives for cleaning, maintenance, and building; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized that children are more susceptible to poor indoor air quality and hazardous substances and that even small exposures via skin, inhalation or ingestion, if occurring during critical “windows” of child development, could result in permanent adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that improving school Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) can improve student academic performance and increase average daily attendance, as asthma is still a leading cause of student and teacher absenteeism due to chronic illness, in addition to the alarming rise of other serious conditions such as chemical sensitivities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-121, encourages each school district to implement an Indoor Air Quality inspection and evaluation program for its facilities and urges local school boards to implement Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program in all public schools. The program has free hands-on material action kits and is designed for use by school staff, with no separate professional being required; and

WHEREAS, National Healthy Schools Day, April 8, 2014, is sponsored by the Healthy Schools Network in partnership with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, the Council of Educational Facility Planners International, and more than twenty other groups to help raise awareness of the need for

healthy indoor and outdoor environments at schools, the need to reduce exposures to indoor and outdoor hazards at schools, and the need to protect student and teacher health; and

WHEREAS, the Tools for Schools program was recognized for meeting or exceeding Tennessee's goals for reducing school expenditures, increasing school attendance, improving test scores, and helping to provide vigilant protection of indoor and outdoor environments where students live, learn, play, and eat; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the members and organizations of the Healthy Schools Network as they commemorate National Healthy Schools Day on April 8, 2014, and invite all citizens and school districts to join in this worthy observance.

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