

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 369

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Joseph Interrante upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Interrante is one such estimable individual, who has served as the chief executive officer of Nashville CARES for twenty-five years and recently took his much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, a group of heroic men and women came together in Nashville to raise awareness about a little-known disease called AIDS, with a mission to reduce public fears about it and help those struck by the disease to get the care they needed; they called this effort Nashville CARES to represent the vision of a compassionate community in which no one would face the challenges of HIV and AIDS alone; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, Mr. Interrante has been at the helm of Nashville CARES, and under his leadership, the organization has become the largest and leading HIV/AIDS organization in Tennessee, serving 50,000 Middle Tennesseans annually; he has guided the organization as it has reinvented itself in response to advances regarding strategies to combat HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, as someone who has been living with HIV for over thirty-four years, Joseph Interrante is an empathetic advocate for those affected by HIV/AIDS; he made this advocacy his life's mission after his first life partner's illness and death from AIDS in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1983. At that time, he coordinated community education for AIDS Action in Boston and later for the AIDS Taskforce in Cleveland, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, he joined the taskforce in Cleveland as education director in 1988 and executive director in 1989; during his time in Ohio, he also served as an HIV prevention advisor to the American Foundation for AIDS Research and a member of the Greater Cleveland Citizen's Committee on HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, in the years since coming to Nashville, Joseph Interrante has served on the board of directors for the AIDS Action Council, the Center for Nonprofit Management, the Southern AIDS Coalition, and the National Association of People with AIDS; he is also a member of the Greater Nashville HIV Planning Council and, most recently, a member of the Mayor's Task Force to End the HIV Epidemic in Nashville/Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Mr. Interrante was recognized as CEO of the Year by the Middle Tennessee Association of Nonprofit Executives; he received the Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign Nashville in 2014, was honored as Public Citizen of the Year in 2006 by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and was named one of twenty-five Nashvillians who have shaped the city for the better since 1989 by the *Nashville Scene*; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Interrante holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University and a doctorate from Harvard University; he has taught at Harvard University and Oberlin College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Interrante exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Joseph Interrante has been a staunch advocate and compassionate voice for those affected by HIV/AIDS, and he is most deserving of our 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 Joseph Interrante upon his exceptional tenure as

chief executive officer of Nashville CARES and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success during his retirement.

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