

By: Representatives Rosebud, Clarke, Banks,
Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING WE2GETHER CREATING
2 CHANGE AND ITS FOUNDER GLORIA DICKERSON.

3 WHEREAS, We2gether Creating Change, an inspirational program
4 for young students in Drew, Mississippi, was created in 2009 by
5 the remarkable Gloria Dickerson, and since its inception, it has
6 truly encouraged the youth of Drew to use their talents, skills,
7 and passions to create a healthy and whole life; and

8 WHEREAS, Gloria Dickerson, a Drew native herself as well as a
9 civil rights activist, returned to her hometown to help improve
10 the education there decades after integrating the former all-white
11 Drew High School in 1965; and

12 WHEREAS, when she returned to Drew High School after working
13 in Battle Creek, Michigan, and Jackson, Mississippi, Gloria was
14 shocked to find that the formally good school she had fought to
15 attend was in disarray, with students expressing their concern
16 that there were not enough textbooks, teachers were not present in
17 class and they were assigned no homework; and



18 WHEREAS, the condition of her alma mater inspired Gloria to
19 teach youth, and later adults, reading skills, public speaking,
20 law of attraction, civic participation and education, voting,
21 history and health through her four, year-long programs: Dollars
22 (\$\$\$) for Your Thoughts, Pen (Penitentiary) or Pencil, Youth Early
23 Success (YES) and adult/community classes; and

24 WHEREAS, each class session features a different inspiring
25 topic, including being confident and building self-esteem,
26 cultivating healthy relationships and graduating high school and
27 entering college, and each one strives to empower women and girls
28 across the state because when women thrive, Mississippi thrives;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, umbrella programs of We2gether Creating Change,
31 including Dollars (\$\$\$) For Your Thoughts and Girls Write the
32 World, are all part of a tradition of strong, resilient women
33 fighting the racial history of Mississippi and the Delta through
34 the power of education; and

35 WHEREAS, since its inception, Gloria has spent over
36 \$500,000.00 of her own money to keep the program active, and
37 because she retired from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, every dollar
38 she donates to a nonprofit organization, the foundation matches it
39 two to one, so when she donated \$50,000.00 to the nonprofit, the
40 foundation gave \$150,000.00; and

41 WHEREAS, Gloria received her passion for education and her
42 support to pursue her academic dreams from her mother, who was



43 also a community leader and civil rights activist who encouraged
44 her children to persevere through the horrific incidents and
45 strive for greatness; and

46 WHEREAS, a truly outstanding woman, Gloria Dickerson has
47 taken risks, pushed limits, and broken ground in an effort to
48 improve the lives of the youth of the state, and through her
49 endeavors, she has represented Mississippi in the most honorable
50 way, by being herself and fighting for the women throughout this
51 state; and

52 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
53 recognize and commend fine institutions in Mississippi that have
54 left a profound impact on her citizens by offering them the
55 opportunity to move from poverty to prosperity and continue to
56 serve a positive, vital role in the present and future vitality
57 and sustainability of this great Magnolia State:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 recognize and honor We2gether Creating Change and the tireless
61 devotion to the betterment of Mississippi that Gloria Dickerson
62 has exhibited through its founding, and extend most sincere wishes
63 for continued success in all future endeavors.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Gloria Dickerson and to the members of the Capitol
66 Press Corps.

