

By: Representative Gunn

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING ESTEEMED  
 2 EDUCATOR AND BELOVED KINDERGARTEN MATH TEACHER MS. LAURA BIVINS OF  
 3 ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MADISON COUNTY FOR WINNING THE  
 4 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND  
 5 SCIENCE TEACHING, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST AWARD OF ITS KIND FROM THE  
 6 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

7 WHEREAS, Laura Bivins, beloved kindergarten math teacher of  
 8 Ann E. Smith Elementary School, has earned and been awarded the  
 9 United States Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and  
 10 Science Teaching, and was one of only two teachers chosen in the  
 11 State of Mississippi for this prestigious honor; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Presidential Award is the highest  
 13 award earned from the United States government, and is awarded to  
 14 the best of the best kindergarten through 12th grade educators in  
 15 mathematics and science representing schools and organizations  
 16 from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of  
 17 Defense Education Activity (DODEA) schools, and the United States  
 18 territories; and

19 WHEREAS, Laura Bivins is a passionate early childhood  
 20 educator, who has been a kindergarten teacher for 28 consecutive



21 years, and still utilizes the best teaching practices to create  
22 interactive teaching methods that stimulate the academic  
23 development of her students; and

24 WHEREAS, her engaging teaching techniques were extremely  
25 beneficial as she endured a rigorous application process that  
26 required her to demonstrate a deep knowledge of content and her  
27 ability to adapt to a broad range of learners and teaching  
28 environments; and

29 WHEREAS, Laura is a National Board Certified Early Childhood  
30 Generalist, who earned her bachelor of science in elementary  
31 education with a concentration in kindergarten through eighth  
32 grade remedial reading and her master's of education in elementary  
33 education from Mississippi College; and

34 WHEREAS, only gifted educators such as Laura reach the  
35 nominee stage because it requires completion of a successful  
36 assessment by a panel of distinguished state and national  
37 mathematicians, scientists and educators in order to qualify for a  
38 recommendation as a nominee to the White House Office of Science  
39 and Technology Policy (OSTP); and

40 WHEREAS, not only does this award carry great scholarly  
41 recognition, but each award recipient also receives a certificate  
42 signed by the President of the United States and a \$10,000 award  
43 from the National Science Foundation; and

44 WHEREAS, although this award is Laura's highest professional  
45 honor yet, in 2018, she was awarded the Madison County Elementary



46 Teacher of the Year and the Ann E. Smith Elementary Teacher of the  
47 Year; and

48 WHEREAS, Laura expressed her gratitude by stating, "The  
49 Presidential Award is an incredible honor, and validates the time  
50 and energy I've put into understanding and implementing  
51 mathematics in my classroom. It is simply amazing to be  
52 recognized for doing what I love best, educating young children!  
53 I strive to build a community of learners within which my students  
54 can be confident problem solvers. I am excited to share this  
55 award with my colleagues and my family, all of whom have supported  
56 my career and my passion for being a lifelong learner"; and

57 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to celebrate  
58 the accomplishments of fine educators such as Ms. Laura Bivins,  
59 who not only enhance the minds of our youth, but bring great pride  
60 and recognition to our state:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
62 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
63 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate esteemed  
64 educator and beloved kindergarten teacher, Ms. Laura Bivins, on  
65 winning the United States Presidential Award For Excellence in  
66 Mathematics and Science Teaching.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
68 furnished to Ms. Laura Bivins, the principal at Ann E. Smith  
69 Elementary School and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

