

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.

