

By: Senator(s) Michel, Simmons (13th),
Barnett, Butler (38th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 557

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING LAURA
2 BIVINS OF ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MADISON COUNTY FOR
3 RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI'S 2020 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
4 MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST SUCH AWARD
5 FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

6 WHEREAS, Laura Bivins is one of two Mississippi teachers who
7 earned national recognition as recipients of the 2020 Presidential
8 Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
9 (PAEMST). Laura is a Math Teacher at Ann Smith Elementary in the
10 Madison County School District; and

11 WHEREAS, established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award
12 kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics and science (including
13 computer science) teachers can receive from the United States
14 government. Each year, the award criteria alternates years
15 between kindergarten through sixth-grade and seventh-grade through
16 12th-grade teachers. This year, kindergarten through sixth-grade
17 teachers received the awards. Award recipients over the years
18 represent schools and organizations from all 50 states,



19 Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Education
20 Activity (DODEA) schools, and the U.S. territories; and

21 WHEREAS, nominees complete a rigorous application process
22 which allows them to demonstrate deep content knowledge and their
23 ability to adapt to a broad range of learners and teaching
24 environments. A panel of distinguished mathematicians, scientists
25 and educators at the state and national levels assesses the
26 applications before recommending nominees to the White House
27 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Teachers are
28 selected based on their distinction in the classroom and
29 dedication to improving STEM education; and

30 WHEREAS, Laura Bivins has been a kindergarten teacher for 28
31 consecutive years and hopes she will continue teaching
32 kindergarten for years to come! She loves the tremendous amount
33 of growth her young students achieve, and she shares in their
34 unabashed joy as they become fluent readers and confident
35 mathematicians. She currently teaches at Ann Smith Elementary
36 School, and has been there for nine years. Prior to Ann Smith
37 Elementary, she taught at Madison Station Elementary, Kosciusko
38 Lower Elementary, Oak Hill Academy, and Clinton Park Elementary
39 Schools; and

40 WHEREAS, Laura is known for using developmentally appropriate
41 and engaging lessons and incorporating best practices for young
42 learners. Her classroom operates like a beehive, with students
43 simultaneously participating in hands-on activities. She



44 routinely integrates the arts into her classroom and feels as if
45 this helps her meet each student's individual needs. Laura also
46 works closely with the district mathematics coordinator to plan
47 and implement mathematics centers that are engaging and that help
48 move students forward. She provides early morning STEM Bins for
49 her students to explore thematic STEAM challenges, by which they
50 continue to amaze her with their resourcefulness and their
51 problem-solving abilities; and

52 WHEREAS, with her district motto being, "Moving the Mark,
53 Mark of Excellence", Laura certainly strives for excellence for
54 her students. Laura was named Ann Smith Elementary's "Teacher of
55 the Year" and Madison County "Teacher of the Year" in 2018. She
56 earned a B.S. in Elementary Education with a concentration in
57 kindergarten through eighth-grade remedial reading and an M.Ed. in
58 Elementary Education, both from Mississippi College. Laura is a
59 National Board Certified Early Childhood Generalist; and

60 WHEREAS, Laura stated, "The Presidential Award is an
61 incredible honor, and validates the time and energy I've put into
62 understanding and implementing mathematics in my classroom. It is
63 simply amazing to be recognized for doing what I love best,
64 educating young children! I strive to build a community of
65 learners within which my students can be confident problem
66 solvers. I am excited to share this award with my colleagues and
67 my family, all of whom have supported my career and my passion for
68 being a lifelong learner":



69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
70 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
71 we do hereby commend and congratulate Laura Bivins of Ann Smith
72 Elementary School in Madison County for receiving Mississippi's
73 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science
74 Teaching, which is the highest such award from the United States
75 government, and extend to Laura and the Madison County School
76 District our best wishes for continued excellence in education.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
78 Laura Bivins, forwarded to the Madison County Board of Education,
79 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

