

By: Senator(s) Blount, Barnett, Butler
(38th), Frazier, Jackson (11th), McLendon,
Norwood, Simmons (12th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 564

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
2 PARENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PPS) AND COMMENDING THE MISSION AND
3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS RESPECTED ORGANIZATION ON THE OCCASION OF
4 THEIR GALA CELEBRATION ON MARCH 5, 2022.

5 WHEREAS, we join the public education community of
6 Mississippi and chapters across the nation in commending the
7 history and accomplishments of Parents for Public Schools; and

8 WHEREAS, on March 5, 2022, PPS will celebrate its 30th
9 Anniversary with a Virtual Gala Celebration. This event will
10 raise funds to continue PPS's vital work to ensure that quality
11 public education is available to all children. This 30th
12 Anniversary Gala features a special message from U.S. Secretary of
13 Education Miguel Cardona, a keynote address by World-Renowned
14 Speaker and Author, Dr. Pedro Noguera, the Emery Stoops and Joyce
15 King Stoops Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, with
16 additional special congratulatory video messages from prominent
17 education leaders and recognition of PPS luminaries and founder,
18 Dick Molpus; and



19 WHEREAS, Parents for Public Schools started in Mississippi 30
20 years ago as a grassroots effort by parents who believed that
21 strong public schools are the cornerstone of any community and
22 essential to a democratic society. Founding parents first focused
23 on recruiting middle-class families to stay in or come back to
24 their public schools in the aftermath of desegregation. In doing
25 this, they helped strengthen their fellow citizens' civic
26 responsibility toward public schools and helped them develop
27 understanding and skills to navigate a new and confusing public
28 education landscape; and

29 WHEREAS, PPS works to restore and improve relationships
30 between parents and schools and schools and communities to help
31 more children succeed in school, guarantee equitable treatment for
32 all children and increase access to quality public education for
33 more families. Because parents invest in and entrust their
34 children to their public schools, and because public schools
35 largely determine the strength of any community, PPS believes that
36 parents and communities are co-owners and primary stakeholders of
37 public education. To this end, PPS promotes transparency,
38 reciprocity and accountability as core elements of partnerships
39 between schools, school districts and families; and

40 WHEREAS, PPS supports a network of local chapters of parents,
41 families and community stakeholders to support and strengthen
42 high-quality, equitable public education, to sponsor candidate
43 forums during school board campaigns, to conduct school tours of



44 public schools in collaboration with local realtors and to
45 identify key local issues for resolution; and

46 WHEREAS, PPS designs, facilitates and provides training for
47 parents and community partners to boost their understanding,
48 skills, and leadership in engaging with schools and school
49 districts to advocate for achieving high-quality
50 public education. Trainings are designed to reach parents for
51 students at all levels of development, from early childhood to
52 high school graduation; and

53 WHEREAS, PPS organizes and mobilizes local community and
54 parent coalitions to bring their voices to state policymakers
55 about the critical value and needs of quality and responsive
56 public education for children across diverse communities. Parents
57 take leadership roles in engaging and educating others in their
58 community about the implications of proposed state, as well as
59 local policies; and

60 WHEREAS, PPS engages in action research and pilots strategies
61 to advance the fundamental civic role of parent and stakeholder
62 coalitions. In urban, suburban and rural communities, PPS brings
63 together diverse stakeholder groups to build and maintain a
64 constituency for quality public schools; and

65 WHEREAS, parents and community members have the right and the
66 responsibility to protect and strengthen this essential
67 institution of American democracy. PPS helps them understand this



68 right and carry out their responsibilities in unique and effective
69 ways that respond to today's public education challenges:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
71 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
72 we do hereby recognize the 30th Anniversary of Parents for Public
73 Schools and commend the mission and accomplishments of this
74 respected organization on the occasion of their Gala Celebration
75 on March 5, 2022, and extend our best wishes to the national
76 education dignitaries on this auspicious occasion.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
78 Joann Mickens, Executive Director of PPS, forwarded to the State
79 Board of Education and be made available to the Capitol Press
80 Corps.

