

By: Representative Crudup

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 169

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ANGIE THOMAS UPON HER
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AN AUTHOR, PRODUCER, SPEAKER, ACTIVIST AND
3 PHILANTHROPIST.

4 WHEREAS, while Angie Thomas has been a Mississippi rising
5 star, as a native of Jackson, Mississippi, a graduate of Belhaven
6 University and as a former teen rapper, the world came to know
7 this Magnolia Princess and literary prodigy, after she was named
8 the inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant 2015, awarded
9 by We Need Diverse Books, for her 2017 debut novel, *The Hate U*
10 *Give*, which was birthed out of her collegiate senior project; and

11 WHEREAS, holding a bachelor of fine arts degree in creative
12 writing and an unofficial degree in "hip hop," Ms. Thomas, who now
13 resides between Mississippi and Georgia, *The Hate U Give* was later
14 acquired by the Balzer+Bray imprint of HarperCollins Publishers in
15 a 13-publisher auction and debuted at Number 1 on the *New York*
16 *Times* bestseller list, winning the American Library Association's
17 William C. Morris Debut Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award



18 (USA), the Waterstones Children's Book Prize (UK) and the
19 Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis (Germany); and

20 WHEREAS, *The Hate U Give*, written to bring light to the
21 controversial issue of police brutality and the Black Lives Matter
22 movement, was adapted into a critically acclaimed film from Fox
23 2000 in 2018, starring Amandla Stenberg and directed by George
24 Tillman, Jr.; and

25 WHEREAS, subjected to multiple instances of gun violence at a
26 young age, Ms. Thomas, who was born and raised in Jackson, and who
27 grew up near the home of assassinated civil rights activist Medgar
28 Evers, was inspired to take up writing after her mother took her
29 to the library to expose her to the limitless possibilities the
30 world offered following the dreadful event of having witnessed a
31 shootout at only six years of age; and

32 WHEREAS, initially poised to write fantasy and middle grade
33 novels, Ms. Thomas's 2019 sophomore novel, *On the Come Up*, is
34 currently a Number 1 *New York Times* bestseller as well, keeping on
35 trend with the success of *The Hate U Give*, with a film development
36 with Paramount Pictures in the works, which will afford Ms. Thomas
37 her breakout role as a producer; and

38 WHEREAS, quite the workaholic with an unyielding pen to give
39 voice to those who have been permanently silenced through
40 misconceived acts of aggression, as well as those who endure the
41 horrors produced by the stinging reality of a loved one's life
42 being senselessly and prematurely extinguished, Ms. Thomas



43 released *Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal to Writing Your Truth*,
44 as a tool to help aspiring writers tell their stories, followed by
45 a 2021 return to the world of Garden Heights with the publication
46 of *Concrete Rose*, a prequel to *The Hate U Give*, which debuted at
47 Number 1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and *Blackout*, a
48 collaborative collection of stories with a central theme of Black
49 teen love expressed during a New York City power outage; and

50 WHEREAS, Ms. Thomas views her writing as her means of
51 activism by making "something that is so political seem personal";
52 and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
54 highlight the successes of our state's native sons and daughters
55 who have immersed themselves in arts and literature to inspire the
56 next generation of talent, as evidenced by Ms. Thomas's litany of
57 literary achievements:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 recognize and commend Angie Thomas upon her accomplishments as an
61 author, producer, speaker, activist and philanthropist and extend
62 best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
64 furnished to Angie Thomas and to the members of the Capitol Press
65 Corps.

