

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1736

A RESOLUTION recognizing Storytime Village, Inc. for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs.

WHEREAS, According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who are proficient in reading by the end of third grade are more likely to graduate from high school and be economically successful in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, 58% of Caucasian, 80% of Hispanic and 85% of African-American fourth graders in Kansas scored below the "proficient" reading level in a 2015 study conducted by the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP); and

WHEREAS, Many underserved populations in Kansas are lacking the quality literacy skills essential for future success in school and life; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 NAEP study also shows that the gap in proficiency between low-income and high-income Kansas students grew from 25% to 34% from the years 2009 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, Storytime Village, Inc., under the leadership of Director Prisca Barnes, has been working since 2009 to help Kansas children, beginning at birth through age eight, thrive in partnerships that provide early childhood development, family engagement involving reading, and access to books; and

WHEREAS, Storytime Village, Inc. is currently the only nonprofit organization based in Kansas that focuses exclusively on children's literacy; and

WHEREAS, With the support of parents and the help of many dedicated volunteers, Storytime Village, Inc. inspires children, regardless of their socio-economic background, race or gender, to read by providing them free books and literacy resources; and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2017, is marked as Literacy Day at the Capitol, which will focus on addressing the literacy gap in Kansas by mobilizing high school students to raise their voices through meetings with legislators, panel discussions, and an advocacy workshop, with the theme: "Why Reading Matters": Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Storytime Village, Inc. for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Prisca Barnes and Senator Faust-Goudeau.

Senate Resolution No. 1736 was sponsored by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*