

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1768

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Dr. Linda Fae Rhone and the Wichita Teacher Inquiry Group for their work to acknowledge bullying in schools.

WHEREAS, Bullying at school is larger than one child pushing, hitting or kicking another, but there have been no national conversations about how direct and indirect forms of bullying at school are connected to ideological beliefs, structural practices and cultural competence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Linda Fae Rhone, of Wichita, Kansas, who earned her master's degree in social foundations of education at California State University, Los Angeles, and a doctor of education degree in curriculum and instruction/cultural foundations of education at West Virginia University, is now leading a program to bring social justice learning to a group of students in Wichita to address bullying at schools. She has been supported by her mother Irene Strong Rhone and her sister Marva Joyce Rhone in her endeavors; and

WHEREAS, The Wichita Teacher Inquiry Group was funded and established in 2009 as a university and public school partnership. Dr. Kimberly Burkhalter assisted with this endeavor, designed to acknowledge that bullying can be systemic and perpetuated by school practices, administration and faculty, and that culturally competent teachers, teaching for social justice and using transformative teaching strategies, can lessen bullying behavior at school and communicate more effectively with culturally diverse families; and

WHEREAS, A new social justice grant project, the Wichita Scholars' Inquiry Group, focuses on middle and high school students, particularly those who are growing up in single-family homes, to help create opportunities for students to act out their growing sense of agency and to learn from and reflect on their successes and struggles; and

WHEREAS, The group will ultimately lead to a community research colloquium, to be held in the Wichita community to allow stakeholders to see that students have been exposed to the most current research in their areas of interests. Student-scholars will read their original research papers and will have the opportunity to discuss the research with the audience; and

WHEREAS, The group is the only one of its kind in the Midwest and moves beyond multiculturalism to promote critical thinking, social change, equity and social justice: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Dr. Linda Fae Rhone and the Wichita Teacher Inquiry Group for their work to acknowledge that bullying is a serious behavioral issue, for raising awareness about cultural competencies as a way to lessen bullying behavior, and for equipping teachers with transformational teaching strategies to lessen bullying and promote social justice in classrooms across the state of Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we support the Wichita Scholars' Inquiry Group in its continued effort to promote critical thinking and social justice among students in Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Faust-Goudeau and one enrolled copy to Dr. Linda Fae Rhone.

Senate Resolution No. 1768 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.*