

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 595

By Smith

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those outstanding collegians who bring honor to Tennessee and act as ambassadors for our State via debate competition; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society (TSDS) from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is one such group of outstanding young people that has excelled in debate competition despite less than ideal conditions; and

WHEREAS, TSDS is completely administered by students and funded nearly exclusively by alumni; unlike other debate teams, TSDS does not enjoy a full-time paid coach, debate scholarships, a debate house, academic credit for debate, or university funding; and

WHEREAS, despite these obstacles, TSDS members have excelled in International Public Debate (IPDA) competition, and the organization has produced five individual national champions since 2013, including David Monghi, 2013-2014 Varsity National Champion; Spencer Hinton, 2014-2015 Varsity National Champion; Mickayla Stogsdill, 2015-2016 Novice National Champion and 2016-2017 Junior Varsity National Champion; and Symantha Gregorash, 2016-2017 Novice National Champion; and

WHEREAS, TSDS also produced four tournament champions in 2014-2015, five in 2015-2016, and six in 2016-2017, including Michael Chambliss, two-time champion Stephen Boyette, and three-time champion Mickayla Stogsdill; and

WHEREAS, in addition to building student confidence through competition, TSDS develops public speaking, critical thinking, and time management skills in its members and encourages discourse and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the members of TSDS have demonstrated extraordinary intellect, preparation, and poise in IPDA-style competition, bringing great pride to their families, their school, and the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to honor and congratulate these exemplary Volunteers on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society on their remarkable success in debate competition and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.