

1 SR88
2 192618-1
3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD:
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8 RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS ON THE
9 OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

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11 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts is
12 celebrating its 50th Anniversary of serving the great State of
13 Alabama and educating its students with distinction; and

14 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts traces its
15 humble beginnings to Governor Lurleen Wallace's decision to
16 provide special funding to the community arts leaders in
17 Birmingham to support after-school instructional art programs
18 during the 1967-1968 school year; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative J.T. "Jabo" Waggoner was
20 instrumental in supporting this novel approach to fine arts
21 education and championed sponsorship and passage of
22 legislation that transitioned the successful after-school
23 program to a full-time school thus establishing the Alabama
24 School of Fine Arts in 1972; and

25 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts provides a
26 special opportunity for talented and passionate students in
27 grades 7 through 12 from across the state to immerse

1 themselves in a unique educational experience in six
2 speciality disciplines: Creative Writing, Dance, Mathematics,
3 Science, Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, widely
5 referred to as ASFA, is Alabama's only state public middle and
6 high school blending fine arts with math and science
7 education; and

8 WHEREAS, ASFA equips students with intensive
9 professional inter-discipline study while also providing the
10 core academic courses necessary to earn an Alabama high school
11 diploma; and

12 WHEREAS, ASFA's 2017 class of 70 seniors earned an
13 average ACT score of 26.8, were awarded \$13 million in merit
14 scholarships averaging almost \$200,000 each, and were accepted
15 at 124 colleges, universities, art schools, and
16 conservatories; and

17 WHEREAS, these accomplishments are generally
18 representative of each Alabama School of Fine Arts graduating
19 class; and

20 WHEREAS, ASFA students routinely achieve and are
21 recognized as Presidential Scholars, National Merit Scholars,
22 National Achievement Scholars, Intel International Science and
23 Engineering Finalists, YoungArts winners, and Scholastic Art
24 and Writing Awards gold medalists; and

25 WHEREAS, ASFA student accomplishments include
26 performances with the National Youth Orchestra, competing in
27 the American Computer Science League All-Star International

1 competition, spending summers at Dance Theatre of Harlem and
2 American Ballet Theatre, having artwork professionally
3 commissioned, starring in major television shows, and
4 publishing entire books all while attending ASFA fulltime; and

5 WHEREAS, alumni of the Alabama School of Fine Arts
6 have received global recognition, fame, and industry awards,
7 won Emmy Awards, authored The Hunger Games trilogy, served as
8 NASA engineers and editors of national publications, had the
9 honor of their work being prominently displayed in museums,
10 are Billboard music artists, renowned teachers, dance company
11 founders, television writers, film producers, and CEOs of
12 successful businesses and world-changing and community serving
13 nonprofits; and

14 WHEREAS, over the course of its 50-year history, the
15 Alabama School of Fine Arts has positively impacted countless
16 students, alumni, faculty, and staff and have enriched,
17 empowered, enlightened, and advanced the state by educating
18 these individuals who have shared their special God-given
19 talents through the arts, sciences, and community service and
20 commerce; and

21 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts is a state
22 treasure and example of the state's enduring commitment to
23 educational excellence; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
25 ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and celebrate the legacy of
26 the Alabama School of Fine Arts for its 50 years of

1 extraordinary service and educational excellence to the State
2 of Alabama and its students.