

1 HJR211  
2 219398-1  
3 By Representative Collins  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 29-MAR-22

COMMENDING CATHY W. GASSENHEIMER FOR PROFESSIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein extended to  
Cathy W. Gassenheimer in recognition of her far-reaching  
contributions and outstanding leadership in the A-Plus  
Education Partnership, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery,  
Alabama, that works to create great schools and to ensure  
every Alabama student has the opportunity to graduate prepared  
for college, career, and life; and

WHEREAS, Cathy W. Gassenheimer was recruited to serve as A-Plus Education Partnership's first employee in 1991; her guiding spirit and expert leadership has helped the development of A-Plus Education Partnership's Blueprint for Successful Alabama Schools and assisted in the campaign to broaden the coalition of Alabamians committed to improving education by organizing 22 town hall meetings across the State of Alabama, with over 23,000 joining the quest for a better education; and

1                   WHEREAS, in 1977, Cathy W. Gassenheimer graduated  
2 with honors from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's  
3 Degree in Speech Communications and with minors in English,  
4 Drama, and Education; later, she earned a Master's Degree in  
5 Political Science from George Washington University; early in  
6 her career, working for Congressman Bill Dickinson in  
7 Washington, D.C., Blount International, and the Business  
8 Council of Alabama, prepared her for working at A-Plus  
9 Education Partnership; her interest in education was sparked  
10 while working as an adjunct professor at Auburn University in  
11 Montgomery; and

12                   WHEREAS, she has helped lead the growth and success  
13 of the organization by initiating a focus on quality teaching  
14 by establishing, in 1999, the Task Force on Teaching and  
15 Student Learning, which published the report that laid the  
16 foundation that still continues today, Teaching and Learning:  
17 Meeting the Challenge of High Standards; early results of the  
18 task force include adoption of national standards for  
19 professional development, a \$5,000 stipend for teachers  
20 earning certification from the National Board for Professional  
21 Teaching Standards, and the establishment of the A-Plus  
22 Education Partnership's Best Practices Center; and

23                   WHEREAS, serving as the Vice President of A-Plus  
24 Education Partnership's Best Practices Center, she has  
25 established networks for educators to improve student  
26 achievement in math and reading, including the Powerful

Conversations Network, Key Leaders and Superintendents Networks, and the Instructional Partners Network; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Cathy W. Gassenheimer is a prolific author; her works range from the initial journal for Alabama Educators, *Working Toward Excellence*, to articles for national publications, including the *Phi Delta Kappan*, the professional journal for educators, and *Education Week*, the national education newspaper; she has been recognized by many educators and has received the *Southeastern Principal's Award* for Outstanding Contributions to Education and the Alabama Staff Development Council's Staff Developer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the inspirational leadership of Cathy W. Gassenheimer, while inspiring all of those around her, has had a tremendous impact upon teacher and student achievement in the State of Alabama, including 14 regional networks serving over 27,000 educators in 112 school systems; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Cathy W. Gassenheimer is honored and commended after 31 years of service to Alabama students and educators, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest appreciation to her in recognition of her outstanding achievements, along with our best wishes in her well-deserved retirement.