

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

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

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

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

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