

Senate Resolution No. 1717

By Senators Faust-Goudeau and Blasi

3-22

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in
2 giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future
3 through its literacy programs.

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5 WHEREAS, According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who
6 are proficient in reading by the end of third grade are more likely to
7 graduate from high school and be economically successful in
8 adulthood; and

9 WHEREAS, A 2022 study conducted by the Annie E. Casey Kids Count
10 Data Center revealed that 64% of White, 83% of Hispanic and 85% of
11 Black fourth graders in Kansas scored below the "proficient" reading
12 level; and

13 WHEREAS, Many underserved populations in Kansas are lacking the
14 quality literacy skills essential for future success in school and life;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Storytime Village, Inc., under the leadership of founder and
17 CEO Prisca Barnes, has been working since 2009 to help Kansas
18 children, beginning at birth through age eight, thrive through
19 partnerships that provide early childhood development, family
20 engagement involving reading, access to books, advocacy and
21 awareness; and

22 WHEREAS, With the support of parents and the help of many dedicated
23 volunteers, Storytime Village, Inc., inspires children to read,
24 regardless of their socio-economic background, race or gender, by
25 providing them free books and literacy resources; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2016, Storytime Village, Inc., launched their Literacy
27 Champions program, a high school leadership program that empowers
28 and inspires students to volunteer and gain leadership skills as they
29 impact the literacy issue in their communities; and

30 WHEREAS, March 23, 2023, is designated as the 6th Annual Literacy
31 Day at the Capitol, which will address the literacy achievement gap in
32 Kansas by focusing on early literacy and mobilizing high school
33 students to raise their voices through meetings with legislators, panel
34 discussions and an advocacy workshop, with the theme: "Right from
35 the Start: Helping our Youngest Thrive through Literacy": Now,
36 therefore,

1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize
2 Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in giving young Kansas children
3 the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs; and
4 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled
5 copies of this resolution to Prisca Barnes and Senator Faust Goudeau.
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