**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL, ITS DRAMA STUDENTS, AND DRAMA TEACHER LARAINE FESS FOR ITS ORIGINAL PRODUCTION OF *WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING*, AN IMAGINATIVE PLAY WITH A POSITIVE, LIFE‑CHANGING ANTIBULLYING MESSAGE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Beaufort High School Theatre Department’s original play, *When You See Something, Say Something*, is making an ever‑increasing positive difference in the lives of many young people impacted by bullying, victims and perpetrators alike; and

Whereas, after dealing with a bullying issue affecting her own family, Mrs. LaRaine Fess, Beaufort High drama teacher, wanted to see if her Drama IV (advanced acting) class could come up with a solution to the problem of bullying. To facilitate the process, she asked her students three questions: What do you do if you are being bullied? What should you do if you see someone being bullied? How do you find the courage to do the right thing?; and

Whereas, the students’ solution was to write a play titled *When You See Something, Say Something*. Ultimately, they wrote two plays, one for elementary school and another for middle and high school, in which they invoke the assistance of McGruff the Crime Dog to teach students what they need to know about bullying; and

Whereas, through their play, the Beaufort High thespians have been successful in getting people talking about bullying and in empowering students so that “when they see something, they say something” to the right people. Mrs. Fess enlarges: “Our goal is to encourage bystanders to speak up when they see something, inspire the victims to report bullying and show them how to handle it, and give students tools to use if they find themselves in a situation where they are bullied”; and

Whereas, now in its second year of production, this play “where actions speak louder than words” has been presented to several Beaufort County School District schools, as well as the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head High School’s ninth‑grade academy, Riverview Charter School, South Carolina and North Carolina Rotary conventions, and the Beaufort Water Festival. In May 2014, it will be performed for a Rotary convention in Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, supported by Rotary of the Low Country (which wrote a grant this year to purchase the class a new set and sound system), the players also receive strong backing from Beaufort County School District Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Moss and Beaufort High Principal Corey Murphy. Dr. Dan Durbin, former Beaufort High principal, and Dr. Valerie Truesdale, former district superintendent, also have been highly supportive of this endeavor; and

Whereas, delighted to hear that on February 6, 2014, the Beaufort High School Drama IV class members will present *When You See Something, Say Something* in the State House theater, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in welcoming them to Columbia and the State House. The members of the House join in saluting these talented young people for their praiseworthy accomplishments and in wishing them continued success in the days to come‑‑or, to use the proper terminology, break a leg, Beaufort High thespians! Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Beaufort High School, its drama students, and drama teacher LaRaine Fess for its original production of *When You See Something, Say Something*, an imaginative play with a positive, life‑changing antibullying message.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Corey Murphy and Mrs. LaRaine Fess of Beaufort High School.

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