

By Senator Gaetz

4-05469-11

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the visionary leadership of  
3 Education Commissioner Eric Smith.

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5 WHEREAS, Eric Smith began his career in Florida as a  
6 classroom teacher more than 30 years ago, and

7 WHEREAS, Eric Smith's commitment to positive change in the  
8 field of education led him to several administrative positions  
9 in Florida school districts and, eventually, to 16 years of  
10 serving as a district superintendent in Virginia, North  
11 Carolina, and Maryland, and

12 WHEREAS, as the commissioner of one of the largest state  
13 agencies in Florida, Eric Smith has managed an operating budget  
14 of more than \$17 billion to provide supports and services that  
15 have increased the proficiency of all students, including those  
16 who are blind, visually impaired, or disabled, and

17 WHEREAS, Eric Smith's goals of increasing the academic  
18 achievement of all students and reducing the disparity in  
19 achievement among student subgroups have remained constant  
20 throughout his career, and

21 WHEREAS, Eric Smith's success in consistently meeting these  
22 goals in individual districts bears testimony to his own passion  
23 to change students' lives, to the urgency he brings to the  
24 challenges involved, and to his leadership in ensuring the  
25 involvement of all stakeholders, and

26 WHEREAS, Eric Smith is the author of the Florida Education  
27 Next Generation Strategic Plan, a visionary blueprint that  
28 focuses on strategic targets and benchmarks in order to assist  
29 students in achieving success in the 21st Century, NOW,

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30 THEREFORE,

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32 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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34       That the members of the Senate recognize the visionary  
35 leadership of Education Commissioner Eric Smith and express deep  
36 appreciation for his outstanding service to the people of this  
37 state.