



# State of Tennessee

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 738

By Johnson, Henry

A RESOLUTION recognizing the role of libraries in empowering the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, libraries enable our Nation to maintain a truly free and enlightened society by providing access to information and technology to all citizens regardless of age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, libraries defend and promote democratic participation, free access to information, and freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, over half of the State's public libraries are responsible for offering the only free access to computers and the Internet in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's libraries provide patrons with the tools they need to live, learn, and work in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, public, academic, school, and specialized libraries are vital resources for economic recovery and growth, supporting businesses, entrepreneurs, job seekers, and students as they pursue their goals; and

WHEREAS, in a society of lifelong learning, libraries connect citizens with global resources of information and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's public libraries typically average over 20 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's college and research libraries are committed to advancing knowledge by instructing and helping students, faculty, and other researchers; by collecting, organizing, and preserving knowledge in print and digital formats; and by providing subject-matter expertise across all of the disciplines being taught in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee libraries have created sophisticated networks that allow citizens to share information across geopolitical, socioeconomic, and cultural boundaries; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide their communities with tailor-made collections and services for people of diverse backgrounds, language abilities, and technological skills; and

WHEREAS, throughout Tennessee, libraries provide a wide range of training, including basic computer skills, workforce readiness skills, wellness and healthy living skills, and college preparedness classes; and

WHEREAS, school libraries and librarians play a vital role in teaching students to be information literate by enabling students to think critically, utilize multiple technologies to gather and manage information, and create and share knowledge ethically; and

WHEREAS, since 1958, the American Library Association has sponsored the annual observance of National Library Week, wherein libraries, librarians, library workers, and supporters across Tennessee and the United States recognize and participate in a multitude of programs and events that honor our communities' libraries and library workers; and

WHEREAS, libraries across Tennessee are celebrating National Library Week from April 8-14, 2012, and Tennessee Library Day on April 9, 2012; now, therefore,

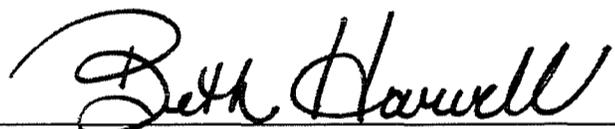
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the contributions that libraries have made and continue to make to the communities they serve, and thank library and information service professionals whose invaluable contributions to the citizens of Tennessee enhance our great State every day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: April 4, 2012

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012



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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR