

House Resolution 639

By: Representatives Shipp of the 58th, Byrd of the 20th, Kaiser of the 59th, Drenner of the 86th, Abrams of the 84th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Imagine Wesley International Academy; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Imagine Wesley International Academy will be a tuition-free, public charter
3 school, serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade in a single gender setting,
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, The Imagine Wesley International Academy will be located at 1049 Custer
6 Avenue just west of Moreland Avenue, near the Grant Park and East Atlanta neighborhoods
7 and convenient to I-85/75 and I-20, and
- 8 WHEREAS, the charter for the Imagine Wesley International Academy has recently been
9 approved by the Atlanta Public School System, and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Imagine Wesley International Academy expects 300 students to enroll in
11 classes in 2007, and
- 12 WHEREAS, students will participate in a curriculum that follows the guidelines set by the
13 International Baccalaureate Organization's (IBO) Primary Years Program (PYP) and Middle
14 Years Program (MYP), and
- 15 WHEREAS, the school will explore and celebrate cultural differences in an academically
16 challenging, nurturing and intentionally multiethnic environment, and
- 17 WHEREAS, the children will have the great fortune of incorporating a second language
18 (Mandarin) into their everyday lives starting in kindergarten, and
- 19 WHEREAS, the goal is to encourage the children to develop into global thinkers and lifelong
20 learners, and

1 WHEREAS, classes will be separate for girls and boys, with equal access for all students to
2 a safe and modern facility, qualified teachers, and high standards, thereby offering the
3 benefits of single gender instruction, while ensuring equal opportunity for boys and girls
4 alike, and

5 WHEREAS, single gender classrooms have broad bipartisan support from leaders such as
6 U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and

7 WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has stated, "Research shows
8 that some students may learn better in single-sex education environments. The Department
9 of Education is committed to giving communities more choices in how they go about
10 offering varied learning environments to their students. These final regulations permit
11 communities to establish single sex schools and classes as another means of meeting the
12 needs of students. They also establish that enrollment in a single sex class should be a
13 completely voluntary option for students and their families and they uphold the prohibitions
14 against discrimination of Title IX. Every child should receive a high quality education in
15 America and every school and district deserves the tools to provide it."

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
17 the members of this body join in commending the Atlanta Public School System and its
18 public charter school, Imagine Wesley International Academy, and recognizing their
19 innovative approach to expanding the educational options to the families and children of
20 Atlanta and its environs.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Rebecca A. Gray,
23 chairperson of the Board of the Imagine Wesley International Academy.