

House Resolution 543

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd and Dollar of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Sunrise Program at Sope Creek Elementary School; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Sunrise Program at Sope Creek Elementary School is proving to be
4 extremely effective in increasing children's learning potential; and

5 WHEREAS, the program teaches children at an early age the importance of physical activity
6 on their health and overall well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, Sope Creek Elementary has seen strong improvements in students' performance
8 in science, reading, and math over the course of the five years they have had the program;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, teachers have noticed a marked difference in student behavior and classroom
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, with the Sunrise Program, Sope Creek Elementary has discovered a wonderful
13 tool to improve education and student health by increasing exercise opportunities to 225
14 minutes each week at zero additional cost; and

15 WHEREAS, they have been recognized by First Lady Sandra Deal and Dr. Brenda
16 Fitzgerald, Commissioner of Public Health, for their leadership in developing a cost neutral
17 way to improve academic achievements and physical health; and

18 WHEREAS, First Lady Sandra Deal and Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald have encouraged other
19 schools to adopt programs similar to Sope Creek's Sunrise Program in the SHAPE initiative;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, principal Martha Whalen, physical education teacher Shawn Maloney, the
22 administration, and the PTA have demonstrated innovation and excellence in public
23 education and provided their students with a strong foundation for healthy bodies and strong,
24 active minds.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize the benefits of the Sunrise Program and commend
27 Martha Whalen, Shawn Maloney, and the Sope Creek Elementary School administration and
28 PTA for their dedication to their students.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Sope Creek Elementary
31 School.