

## House Resolution 867

By: Representatives Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Bentley of the 139<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Shaffer Chimere Smith; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Shaffer Chimere Smith, also known as Ne-Yo, recognizes through his words  
3 and deeds that the youth of this state and nation are the most precious resource and hope for  
4 the future, and therefore, all children deserve a safe, loving, and nurturing place to call home,  
5 which is needed to help them reach their highest potential; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2007, he co-founded the national organization the Compound Foundation  
7 with his business partner, Reynell Hay, to enhance the well-being of youth growing up in  
8 foster care and group homes; and

9 WHEREAS, the Compound Foundation's goal is to support bright futures for young people  
10 by helping them forge healthy relationships, pursue education and training, learn  
11 entrepreneurship basics, and realize their dreams; and

12 WHEREAS, the foundation's work includes future CEO academy, giving tour, music  
13 therapy, music academy boot camp, grants, and scholarships; and

14 WHEREAS, the foundation provides funding for family finding practices to secure adoption  
15 or guardianship for older youth and programs that assist caregivers in understanding and  
16 managing their child's unique needs and helping ease the adjustment to family life; and

17 WHEREAS, the foundation maintains the Learning and Working Fund to "level the playing  
18 field" by providing scholarships to young people with a history of foster care or group home  
19 placement because youth growing up in care often face disruptions to their education due to  
20 frequent moves, health or mental health issues, or behavioral problems, and the fund supports  
21 the full spectrum of education goals, from tutoring support and GED preparation to  
22 vocational training and community college or university study at the undergraduate and  
23 graduate levels.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
25 the members of this body commend Shaffer Chimere Smith for his steadfast work in the  
26 foster community and his contributions through his organization, the Compound Foundation.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
28 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Shaffer  
29 Chimere Smith.