

Senate Resolution 147

By: Senators Esteves of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th, Brass of the 6th, Echols of the 49th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct Center for Youth; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, founded in 2007 by Atlanta native and former Chicago Cubs outfielder C.J.
4 Stewart and his wife, Kelli, the Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct (L.E.A.D) Center for Youth
5 aims to empower Atlanta's Black youth through the methodology of sports-based youth
6 development; and

7 WHEREAS, L.E.A.D. helps participants build sustainable, meaningful lives and break
8 inter-generational cycles of poverty and trauma by using sports to foster leadership, civic
9 engagement, and community service; and

10 WHEREAS, through direct service programming, L.E.A.D. uses baseball for boys and tennis
11 for girls to equip students in Atlanta Public Schools and metro Atlanta with the confidence
12 and skills needed to overcome crime, poverty, and racism; and

13 WHEREAS, L.E.A.D. bridges a critical gap for vulnerable families in inner-city Atlanta by
14 offering high quality sports-based youth development programs that are paid for by the

15 participants' commitment to their grades, attendance, behavior, and community service, thus
16 removing the barrier of monetary cost; and

17 WHEREAS, through exceptional coaching and mentoring, L.E.A.D. youth develop
18 social-emotional learning and executive functioning skills that prepare them for success
19 athletically, academically, socially, and career wise, with 97 percent of participants showing
20 improvement in at least three social-emotional learning capacities by the end of one annual
21 programming cycle; and

22 WHEREAS, in the near future, L.E.A.D. plans to create a \$12 million state-of-the-art
23 sports-based youth development complex in the heart of the Bankhead community, which
24 will enable L.E.A.D. to empower more than 1,000 young people annually; and

25 WHEREAS, L.E.A.D.'s dedication to empowering youth and connecting communities
26 strengthens both Atlanta and Georgia, making it abundantly fitting and proper to recognize
27 the accomplishments of this extraordinary organization.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend the Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct Center for Youth for its
30 valuable contributions on behalf of the youth of this state as well as extend best wishes for
31 its continued growth, development, and success.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Launch,
34 Expose, Advise, Direct Center for Youth.