Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1065 By: Nelson

A Resolution supporting the development of comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities; urging collaboration between higher education, governmental agencies, families, students, businesses, organizations and other advocates; and providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau estimates there are over 600,000 people with disabilities in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma, at sixteen and one-tenths percent (16.1%), has the fifth greatest percentage of individuals with disabilities living within its borders of any U.S. state; and

WHEREAS, the employment rate for Oklahomans with disabilities is thirty-six and four-tenths percent (36.4%), less than half that of the general population; and

WHEREAS, when Oklahomans with disabilities are able to find work, they earn only three-fourths (3/4) what the average Oklahoman earns in a year; and

WHEREAS, a young person with some postsecondary education earns twenty-three percent (23%) more than a person with only a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the average annual cost of supporting a person with a disability in the community in Oklahoma was Twenty-nine Thousand Six Hundred One Dollars ($29,601.00) per person; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the total cost of supporting over 8,600 people with disabilities in Oklahoma was over Two Hundred Fifty-seven Million Dollars ($257,000,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the 2014 annual report of the National Coordinating Center for Postsecondary Education showed that postsecondary education experiences for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities can result in over sixty percent (60%) of students securing jobs above minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, postsecondary education substantially increases the likelihood of a person with a disability securing a job and becoming economically self-sufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives believes there is an opportunity to create and supports the development of comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And furthermore, the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the following:

THAT Oklahoma Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) explore creating inclusive, comprehensive programs for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities that meet national recommended standards.

THAT Oklahoma IHEs work with families of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the youth themselves to explore ways to create such programs.

THAT Oklahoma IHEs establish public and private partnerships to fund these programs with a goal of self-sufficiency over the next three to five years.

THAT Oklahoma businesses and IHEs work together to create work-based learning experiences that provide opportunities for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

THAT Oklahoma IHEs, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Developmental Disabilities Services, any governmental agency that provides services to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, disability advocates, family members, and youth with disabilities work with philanthropic groups to create pilot comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs.

THAT such pilot programs work with national groups creating high quality comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs to ensure models created in Oklahoma are high quality, collect appropriate outcomes data, and result in increases in employment for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Marie Moore, Deputy Director of the Developmental Disabilities Services Division of the Department of Human Services; Ann Trudgeon, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council; Joe Cordova, Executive Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services; Kim Osmani, Transition Coordinator of the Department of Rehabilitation Services; Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Todd Loftin, Executive Director of Assessment and Instruction, Special Education, for the State Department of Education; Doris Erhart, Leadership/Transition Family Support Partner for the Oklahoma Family Network; Wanda Felty, Community Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator for Oklahoma LEND; Kayla Bower, Attorney and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Disability Law Center; and Jill Harrison, Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 21st day of April, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 21st day of April, 2016, at 2:10 o'clock P. M.

By: _____