

# SJR41 INTRODUCED



1 SJR41  
2 G3YU92C-1  
3 By Senator Beasley  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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SJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING JOHN F. SMITH III FOR HIS MANY PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations are conveyed to John F. "Trey" Smith III for his many professional accomplishments, including being a 2021 recipient of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, which is the highest honor a teacher can receive by the U.S. government; this honor was bestowed upon him by President Biden; and

WHEREAS, Trey Smith was born in Vero Beach, Florida, and moved with his family to Beauregard, Alabama, in 1985; both of his parents are Auburn University graduates with degrees in education, and Trey graduated as valedictorian from Lee-Scott Academy in Auburn; he earned dual Bachelor's Degrees from Louisiana State University in Political Science and Communication Studies; he earned his Master of Education from the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Trey was recruited by Teach for America after earning his two undergraduate degrees and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; he taught seventh and eighth grade science and social studies at Morrison Elementary; he later joined the faculty at Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School as a teacher and Science Department Chair; during his tenure at the school, he established a junior



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29 chapter of National Society of Black Engineers, a science  
30 research and internship program, and two robotics teams  
31 among many other accomplishments; he co-founded the  
32 Philadelphia Engineering and Math Challenge in partnership  
33 with educators from the Math Forum to provide a yearlong  
34 series of competitions for middle and high school math teams  
35 from Philadelphia public schools; and

36 WHEREAS, Trey moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as  
37 an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow on Capitol  
38 Hill; as a legislative fellow in the U.S. Senate, he helped  
39 secure bipartisan amendments to the Every Student Succeeds  
40 Act of 2016 relating to engineering and computer science  
41 education, career and technical education, and teacher  
42 professional development; he continues to engage in  
43 education policy as an advisor to the American Association  
44 of Physics Teachers; after he completed his fellowship year,  
45 the Library of Congress selected him to be the first ever  
46 Teacher-in-Residence, where he explored teaching and  
47 learning with historical primary sources in science and  
48 engineering classrooms; with that experience, he has  
49 facilitated workshops sponsored by the National Council for  
50 History Education and hosted by the U.S. Patent and  
51 Trademark Office, Astronauts Memorial Foundation at the  
52 Kennedy Space Center, and the Henry Ford Learning Institute;  
53 and

54 WHEREAS, since 2009, Trey has served as a  
55 teacher-consultant with the Philadelphia Writing Project,  
56 for which he co-facilitated its signature Invitational



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57 Summer Institute on Writing and Literacy for six summers and  
58 co-chaired the advisory board from 2020 to 2024; he co-led a  
59 \$60,000 grant for the National Writing Project and the  
60 Association of Science-Technology Centers to create the  
61 after-school program, "GAME ON! Philadelphia: Science,  
62 Literacy, and the Pursuit of Happiness" in partnership with  
63 the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University; he has  
64 also co-led several grants from the Library of Congress,  
65 including a four-year \$225,000 grant to create curriculum  
66 materials for using primary sources to support civically  
67 engaged argument writing in K-12 classrooms; and

68 WHEREAS, Trey currently teaches new teachers in  
69 secondary science education methods and foundations in  
70 education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School  
71 of Education; he also teaches K-8 students in a  
72 multidisciplinary makerspace at the Marian Anderson School  
73 in Philadelphia; he has authored several publications in  
74 peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and web publications  
75 for educators; he has given many presentations and has been  
76 invited to give lectures and keynote addresses; we would be  
77 remiss if we did not mention his humble career beginnings at  
78 Toomer's Drugs, which was under the ownership of Senator  
79 Billy Beasley, who has watched his career with admiration;  
80 now therefore,

81 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
82 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That John F. "Trey" Smith III is  
83 highly commended for his dedication to education from the  
84 classroom to Congress and this resolution is offered to him



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85 as evidence of our high regard and with best wishes for  
86 continued success and prosperity.