

House Resolution 318

By: Representatives Olaleye of the 59th, Miller of the 62nd, Willis of the 55th, Reese of the 140th, Berry of the 56th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr. has demonstrated his commitment to
3 teaching the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,
4 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

5 WHEREAS, on September 1, 2024, Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr. began his leadership
6 as the eighth pastor of the historic Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, prior to his new role, he served as pastor at Second Missionary Baptist Church,
8 Kokomo, Indiana, where he led the establishment of a Community Development
9 Corporation, Embracing Hope of Howard County, and spearheaded the renovation of the
10 historic Douglass School to serve as a community museum and cultural center; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr. has been widely recognized for his
12 dedication to intergenerational ministry, having been invited to speak nationally and
13 internationally in England, Australia, and Japan, and he is the distinguished author of *Under*
14 *One Roof: Building an Intergenerational Church*; and

15 WHEREAS, he has further served on numerous denominational, ecumenical, and community
16 boards, including the Indiana Missionary Baptist State Convention, the Mayor's Council for
17 Substance Abuse, the Human Rights Commission, and the Christian Theological Seminary
18 Board of Trustees; and

19 WHEREAS, his divine and faithful leadership has been recognized by numerous institutions
20 including Wesley Theological Seminary, Calvin College, Morehouse College's Martin Luther
21 King Jr. International College of Pastoral Leadership, and the Wabash College Pastoral
22 Leadership Program; and

23 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the
24 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or
25 humanitarian, Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr. has shown the energy, devotion, and
26 commitment truly reflective of divine guidance; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the outstanding accomplishments
28 and dynamic Christian ministry of this devout and pious man.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize and commend Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr. for his
31 innumerable good works rendered upon those in need and extend best wishes for many more
32 years of successful fellowship and leadership.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
35 Reverend Dr. William J. Smith Jr.

