

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 296

By Brooks

A RESOLUTION recognizing Patricia and Manuel Oliver for their unwavering fight against gun violence.

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2018, Patricia and Manuel Oliver experienced the tragic loss of their beloved son, Joaquin "Guac" Oliver, in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting; and

WHEREAS, determined to ensure that their son's memory does not become just another statistic, Patricia and Manuel Oliver have turned their pain into relentless action, using every tool available, including activism and confrontation, to demand real change; and

WHEREAS, through their nonprofit organization, Change the Ref (CTR), the Olivers have worked tirelessly to hold politicians, the gun industry, and complacent leaders accountable; and

WHEREAS, the fight against gun violence is deeply personal for the Olivers, as they have made it their mission to be the voice of their son, Joaquin, who cannot be here to speak for himself; and

WHEREAS, their bold activism has sparked real change, exemplified by their demand for the creation of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which was established as a result of their and many others' impassioned advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Patricia and Manuel Oliver's activism is characterized by its loud, unapologetic, and impossible-to-ignore nature, using art, storytelling, and unexpected platforms to reach people in impactful ways; and

WHEREAS, some of the Olivers' most notable projects include the NRA Children's Museum, a traveling exhibit exposing the deadly consequences of America's obsession with guns; The Lost Class, a symbolic graduation ceremony for victims of gun violence; The Final

Exam, a video game that educates players on gun safety bills; and murals and public art that bring Joaquin Oliver's story to life and remind people of what they must fight for; and

WHEREAS, their latest project, "Guac," is a powerful stage performance that takes audiences through the Olivers' journey of loss, activism, and resilience, challenging people to act against gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Patricia and Manuel Oliver have dedicated their lives to ensuring that their son's story saves lives, pledging that so long as gun violence continues to destroy families, they will continue to speak out, push forward, and make sure his voice is heard; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Patricia and Manuel Oliver for their unwavering dedication to fighting gun violence in memory of their son, Joaquin "Guac" Oliver.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.