

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 745

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Eric Hicks.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to pause in their deliberations to honor those Tennesseans who are committed to helping their fellow citizens fight opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hicks, plant manager of Jones Plastic & Engineering in Camden, is one such commendable individual, who has set upon a path to help rehabilitate those employees who suffer from drug addiction; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Hicks arrived at Jones Plastic & Engineering in 2013, approximately fifteen percent of workers were absent each day; the turnover rate was close to seventy-five percent; and it was not uncommon for all of the individuals at a typical job orientation session to fail the mandatory drug test; and

WHEREAS, concerned about the well-being of his employees and the productivity of his plant, Eric Hicks settled upon an uncommon solution to his plant's problems: he decided to approach those employees suffering from drug addiction and offer them help; those employees who accept assistance are referred to nearby treatment centers and allowed to return to their jobs once they have completed treatment; and

WHEREAS, since employing this non-traditional approach, Mr. Hicks has not only helped his employees conquer drug addiction, but he has also boosted his plant's productivity; turnover, absenteeism, and drug test fail rates have dropped significantly, as well as the number of defective parts made, all of which lower costs and increase profits; and

WHEREAS, unlike the typical employer, Eric Hicks has chosen to extend compassion and support to those suffering from drug addiction; his novel approach to drug addiction in the workplace is a model that others would do well to emulate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Eric Hicks for his dedication to combating opioid addiction, thank him for his sterling commitment to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens and his employees, and extend to him our warmest wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.