

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. STEPHANIE BELL, MEMBER
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT THREE
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP
IN STATEWIDE EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has served the state of Alabama with unparalleled dedication and distinction as a member of the Alabama State Board of Education since 1994, being re-elected to eight consecutive terms and becoming the longest-serving member in the Board's history, including two terms as Vice President; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has tirelessly championed transformative education reforms, including the award-winning Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) and the internationally-recognized Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), positively impacting countless students across the state; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell played a pivotal role in exposing and addressing corruption in Alabama's two-year college system when it was under the Board's authority, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the state's education systems; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has been an active and influential voice in education policy nationwide, serving on the Executive Committee of the Education Commission of the States (ECS) for over a decade, and serves as Vice Chair of its Nominating Committee, and on its Steering Committee; on the Board of Directors as a Southern Area Director for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE); and as a member of national panels producing impactful reports on adolescent literacy and middle school reforms; and

WHEREAS, her unwavering commitment to education has led to her involvement in regional and national conferences, panels, and initiatives, including representing Alabama at the National Council of State Legislators' Conference on Teen Health and Pregnancy Prevention, serving on the Alabama Teacher Preparation Advisory Council, and contributing to the national accreditation of teacher education programs; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the Friend of Education Award, the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award, the Emma Sansom Heroine Award, and the Eagle Award for her contributions to "God, Family, and Country," reflecting her dedication to service and excellence; and

WHEREAS, her career as a journalist with *The Montgomery Advertiser/Alabama Journal* demonstrated her commitment to truth and accountability, earning her accolades such as the CASE II Media Award and recognition by the Alabama Press Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell devotion to improving education extends to her service as the volunteer Executive Director of the Statewide Committee on Reforming Education, her role as a charter member of The Education Leaders Council, and her participation in the RENEW National Council of Women Advisors to Congress; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephanie Bell commitment to faith, family, and community is evident in her as a member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, her dedication to her family, and her enduring optimism for the future of education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby honor and commend Mrs. Stephanie Bell for her extraordinary contributions to education in Alabama and across the nation, her unwavering dedication to the children of Alabama, and her legacy of leadership, advocacy, and reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends its heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Stephanie Bell for her decades of exemplary service and leadership and offers its best wishes for her continued success and fulfillment in all future endeavors.

Adopted this 9th day of January 2025