

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Bryan, Ross

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SCHOOL NURSES IN THE STATE OF
2 MISSISSIPPI FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

3 WHEREAS, school nurses will be recognized for their
4 outstanding services during the Health Awareness Week on National
5 School Nurse Day on January 27, 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, school nursing has existed in the United States for
7 more than 100 years, and in 1969, Mary Nell Kirkpatrick Haskell of
8 Amory was the first certified school nurse in Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, school nurses promote and protect the health status
10 of students and staff through health services and health
11 education, and maintain a healthy environment; and

12 WHEREAS, school nurses have a number of responsibilities,
13 including screening students for hearing and vision problems,
14 visiting students at home who are classified as homebound,
15 providing staff development for communicable and contagious
16 diseases, checking students for head lice, dental problems and
17 scoliosis, identifying asthma, communicating with physicians or
18 mental health care providers, providing and monitoring routine
19 student medications, training students and staff on diabetes and
20 providing sugar checks, and maintaining and implementing strategic
21 plans for treating emergencies; and

22 WHEREAS, school nurses strengthen and facilitate the
23 educational process by improving and protecting the health of
24 children and staff by helping remove health-related barriers to
25 the learning process for individual children; and

26 WHEREAS, school nurses collaborate with other education and

27 health care professionals to provide optimal school nursing care
28 to the school community; and

29 WHEREAS, as of September 1997, the Mississippi Department of
30 Education has employed 151 school nurses, and currently the state
31 has approximately 170 school nurses in Mississippi's public
32 schools; and

33 WHEREAS, school nurses contribute to the schools by: helping
34 maintain a higher average daily attendance rate; providing a
35 home-to-school connection for students with physical and mental
36 problems; educating students, staff and community on health issues
37 facing the classroom; preventing drug and/or alcohol abuse and
38 intervening with students having such problems; and lowering
39 teenage pregnancy through education; and

40 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi finds it
41 most appropriate to recognize such a remarkable group of people as
42 the school nurses, who dedicate their lives to providing a safer,
43 healthier school environment for the children of this state:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE,
45 That we do hereby commend the school nurses throughout the State
46 of Mississippi and extend our deepest appreciation for the
47 outstanding services they provide to our school children.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to the Mississippi State Department of Education and the
50 members of the Capitol Press Corps.