

By: Senator(s) Harvey, King, Farris, Chaney,
 Thames, Dearing, Harden, Hamilton, Frazier,
 Walls, Jackson, Lee, Cuevas, Carmichael,
 Chamberlin, Mettetal, Blackmon, Jordan,
 Browning, Burton, Scoper, Nunnelee, Hewes,
 Williamson, Stogner, Furniss, Ross, Hyde-Smith, Moffatt, Robertson,
 Johnson (19th), Canon, Kirby, Johnson (38th), Smith, Little, Carlton,
 Dawkins, Gordon, White (29th), White (5th), Huggins, Posey, Minor,
 Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 549

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S
 2 APPOINTMENT OF DR. ROD PAIGE, SR., AS EDUCATION SECRETARY AND
 3 RESPECTFULLY URGING THE U.S. SENATE TO EXPEDITE THE CONFIRMATION
 4 OF THIS RESPECTED MISSISSIPPIAN.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Rod Paige, Sr., President George W. Bush's
 6 choice for Secretary of the U.S. Office of Education, is a native
 7 of Lawrence County, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige has been Superintendent of the Houston
 9 Independent School District since 1994, and is credited with
 10 improving performance in the district--the largest in Texas and
 11 the 7th largest school district in America--and making it one of
 12 the best regarded urban school systems in the country; and

13 WHEREAS, before taking the superintendent's job, Dr. Paige
 14 served on the school system's board and as Dean of the College of
 15 Education at Texas Southern University; and

16 WHEREAS, the National Alliance of Black School Educators
 17 named him their Superintendent of the Year, and he was named
 18 outstanding urban educator by the Council of Great City Schools in
 19 1999; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige received his basic education in the public
 21 schools in the great State of Mississippi, graduated from Lawrence
 22 County Training School (Monticello, Mississippi) and Jackson State
 23 College (now Jackson State University), earned the master's and
 24 doctoral degrees from Indiana University, taught and coached
 25 football in Mississippi at Sumner Hill High School, Utica Junior
 26 College and Jackson State University; and served as assistant

27 football coach at the University of Cincinnati and as Athletic
28 Director and Head Football Coach at Texas Southern University; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige is one of the longest-serving
30 superintendents in America and his professional achievements are a
31 matter of record: was named as one of the twenty most influential
32 Texans in the September 2000 issue of The Texan Monthly; is
33 recognized as one of America's foremost authorities on education;
34 The Education Week newspaper (October 9, 2000) called him "one of
35 the country's best-known and most highly regarded
36 superintendents"; has won one of the nation's most prestigious
37 education awards, the Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Prize in Education
38 (September 2000); in October 1999 he was named America's most
39 outstanding urban educator and was awarded the Richard R. Green
40 Award by the Council of the Great City Schools; was named the
41 National Superintendent of the Year by the National Alliance of
42 Black School Educators (November 2000); was named the Texas
43 nominee for the national Superintendent of the Year by the Texas
44 Association of School Administrators (November 2000); and in
45 October 1997, The Oregonian chose him as one of the ten "dream
46 superintendents." The newspaper chose Dr. Paige after asking
47 urban-education experts across the country to name the ten best;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige has dedicated his life to demonstrating
50 the potential that can be harnessed on behalf of the children.
51 Under his leadership the achievement levels of students (in
52 Houston) have improved over time in every category for every group
53 of students. In fact, the gap between student groups shrank even
54 as all groups have improved; and

55 WHEREAS, Dr. Paige credits his parents for his strong belief
56 in learning and commitment to positive work ethics; his mother was
57 a teacher and librarian and his father a school administrator in
58 his early career and later a County Agent with the Cooperative

59 Extension Service, and his sister, Raygene, is a respected
60 educator; and

61 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
62 professional and civic achievements of this Mississippian who has
63 brought honor to his family, his community, his school and to his
64 native State of Mississippi:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
67 we do hereby commend President Bush's appointment of Dr. Rod
68 Paige, Sr., as Secretary of the U.S. Office of Education and do
69 hereby respectfully urge the U.S. Senate to expedite and act
70 favorably on the confirmation of this respected Mississippian.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
72 presented to Dr. Paige and his family and be forwarded to members
73 of Mississippi's congressional delegation.