

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. 556

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S
 2 APPOINTMENT AND SENATE CONFIRMATION OF DR. ROD PAIGE, SR., AS
 3 EDUCATION SECRETARY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
65 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
66 we do hereby commend President Bush's appointment and the United
67 States Senate's confirmation of Dr. Rod Paige, Sr., as Secretary
68 of the U.S. Office of Education and wish continued success to this
69 respected Mississippian in his new role influencing the future
70 direction of public education in America.

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.