

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.