

By: Senator(s) Harden, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 586

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF DR. A.B.  
2 BRITTON, PIONEER FOR HEALTH CARE AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. A.B. Britton of Jackson, Mississippi, saw his  
4 first patient in 1948 in his Farish Street office building that  
5 bears his name; and

6 WHEREAS, he has since become a health care pioneer in the  
7 black community, a civil rights leader and a man of vision; and

8 WHEREAS, he can describe the last minutes of the life of  
9 storied human rights activist, Medgar Evers, who acknowledged his  
10 presence in the emergency room before expiring; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi born, raised in Jackson, educated in New  
12 Orleans and Washington, D.C. (Howard University), the physician  
13 has spent a lifetime serving medicine and society simultaneously,  
14 cutting through "white paper" red tape and racial barriers with  
15 one hand and birthing babies with the other; and

16 WHEREAS, he has held office with and/or served on the Civil  
17 Rights Commission and virtually every one of the state's most  
18 prestigious medical organizations, as well as Mississippi branches  
19 of national physicians' groups; and

20 WHEREAS, in the 1950s and 1960s, Britton was at the forefront  
21 of the integration of Baptist, St. Dominic's and Hinds General  
22 (now Central Mississippi Medical Center) hospitals; and

23 WHEREAS, his imprint is on the cornerstone of a  
24 nurse-midwifery school at University Medical Center (only the  
25 third such school in the nation) and, under his leadership, more  
26 than one Head Start program has gotten a leg up; and

27           WHEREAS, during the volatile 1960s, an era rife with  
28 demonstrations, Britton was also a key player on the lines of  
29 confrontation; and

30           WHEREAS, the doctor's forays into the world of politics  
31 placed him in circles with the likes of Robert Kennedy, with whom  
32 he became friends; he recalls once telling Kennedy that he didn't  
33 have to travel to the Delta to witness poverty in Mississippi; and

34           WHEREAS, the doctor's testimonials have been recorded in the  
35 Library of Congress, and for years, Britton's health records were  
36 used as a national and state barometer for illnesses affecting the  
37 poor; and

38           WHEREAS, the son of a Methodist minister who was born in  
39 1865, the doctor says, "My people were here before the state was  
40 even formed"; and

41           WHEREAS, these days, Britton attends to patients four days a  
42 week in his office of 53 years, motoring down a street that sports  
43 an official "Historic District" banner; and

44           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
45 accomplishments of this Mississippian whose leadership in the  
46 field of medical education and race relations is a matter of  
47 record:

48           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
50 we do hereby commend the career of Dr. A.B. Britton of Jackson,  
51 Mississippi, pioneer for health care and civil rights in  
52 Mississippi, and wish him and his family continued success in  
53 their future endeavors.

54           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
55 presented to Dr. Britton and be made available to the Capitol  
56 Press Corps.