

By: Senator(s) Harden, Dearing, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 47

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND DR. JAYNE SARGENT UPON THE OCCASION
2 OF HER IMPENDING RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE JACKSON
3 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Jayne Sargent, Superintendent of the Jackson
5 Public School District since 1997, is the first woman to hold that
6 post; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Sargent has announced her retirement after five
8 years as head of the 32,000 student district, effective June 30,
9 2002; and

10 WHEREAS, she has spent the bulk of her 35-year public
11 education career in Jackson; and

12 WHEREAS, a 1967 graduate of Tougaloo College, Dr. Sargent
13 worked two years in the library at Jackson State University,
14 moving in 1969 to be a Jackson Public Schools Librarian for Boyd
15 and McLeod Elementary Schools; and

16 WHEREAS, eight years later she became Assistant Principal at
17 Callaway High School, then served as Principal at Powell Middle
18 School and later Jim Hill High School; and

19 WHEREAS, Meridian schools hired her away from Jackson as
20 Assistant Superintendent in 1991, and she was promoted to
21 Superintendent during her tenure in Meridian; and

22 WHEREAS, Deputy Superintendent Ron Sellers has praised Dr.
23 Sargent, saying, "She is a woman of faith. What that comes across
24 as, is compassion to help people"; and

25 WHEREAS, Sargent's retirement comes as a double loss for the
26 State of Mississippi, because, with her retirement, she will also
27 resign her school administrator position on the State Board of



28 Education where, State Superintendent of Education Richard
29 Thompson says, her calm perspective will be missed; and

30 WHEREAS, among her many accomplishments in Jackson are: an
31 aggressive building program financed through state or federal
32 funds or school district loans; a district testing program for
33 third and sixth graders to determine whether students can pass to
34 the next grade; and the Morrison Academic Advancement Center for
35 eighth-graders who need a boost to catch up on academics; and

36 WHEREAS, she is perhaps best known for her commitment to
37 academic excellence; and

38 WHEREAS, Sargent has shepherded the district through a series
39 of state and local budget problems, never wavering in her
40 commitment to the task at hand; and

41 WHEREAS, Dr. Sargent's deep and abiding love for the children
42 of the district have guided her vision for the public schools; and

43 WHEREAS, she credits much of her success to the example of
44 her parents. The only child of a school-teacher mom and a
45 hard-working father, she was expected to do well in school, and
46 did, acquiring a life-long love of learning in the process; and

47 WHEREAS, she is widely regarded as having done a tremendous
48 job as superintendent, with her greatest accomplishment being the
49 restoration of the public's confidence in Jackson Public Schools;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, she has been an icon of confidence and strength and
52 has always brought credit to the school district; and

53 WHEREAS, one of her great talents is to inspire good people
54 at the school-building level to do their best and not be afraid to
55 think out-of-the-box to create new programs and find innovative
56 solutions to problems; and

57 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
58 the contributions to the quality of life in this state made by
59 dedicated citizens, and especially those who work with the youth
60 of this state, who are the future:



61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize and commend Dr. Jayne
63 Sargent for her outstanding career as an educator, and extend to
64 her the Legislature's congratulations upon her upcoming retirement
65 with the thanks of a grateful state for her devotion to learning
66 and love of the students she has served.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 presented to Dr. Sargent, the Jackson Public School District and
69 the Capitol Press Corps.

