

By: Senator(s) Little, Albritton, Browning,  
Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Davis, Dawkins,  
Frazier, Jackson (11th), King, Kirby, Lee  
(35th), Mettetal, Michel, Posey, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
3 MEDICAL CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

4 WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi Medical Center in  
5 Jackson, Mississippi, which opened on July 1, 1955, is the health  
6 science campus of the University of Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, an address by Dr. Fred Allison, one of the original  
8 1955 University of Mississippi Medical Center faculty, highlighted  
9 the institution's 50th Anniversary Convocation on Thursday,  
10 October 20, 2005. The University of Mississippi Medical Center  
11 opened in 1955, but its beginnings date to 1903 when a two-year  
12 medical school was established on the parent campus in Oxford,  
13 Mississippi. In that era, certificate graduates went out of state  
14 to complete their Doctor of Medicine degrees; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1950, the Mississippi Legislature, by a one-vote  
16 margin, enacted a law to create a four-year medical school. On  
17 July 1, 1955, the state's new University Medical Center, or UMC as  
18 it is commonly called, opened in Jackson, initially as a four-year  
19 medical school with medical and graduate students, interns and  
20 residents. As it had in Oxford, the School of Medicine offered  
21 both medical and graduate degree programs. The campus included a  
22 teaching hospital and a library; and

23 WHEREAS, the Oxford campus' nursing department moved to the  
24 Medical Center in 1956 and it was granted school status in 1958.  
25 The School of Health Related Professions (SHRP) was added in 1971  
26 and began offering baccalaureate curricula in 1973. The School of  
27 Dentistry was authorized in 1973, and its first students were

28 admitted in 1975. The graduate program was elevated to school  
29 status in 2001 and designated the School of Graduate Studies in  
30 the Health Sciences; and

31 WHEREAS, the Medical Center functions as a separately funded,  
32 semi-autonomous unit responsible to the Chancellor of the  
33 University of Mississippi and, through him, to the constitutional  
34 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, which  
35 governs all eight state institutions of higher learning in  
36 Mississippi. Dr. Dan Jones, the Medical Center's Chief Executive  
37 Officer, is the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs; and

38 WHEREAS, the original T-shaped building of 1955 is barely  
39 discernible in the campus of 2005, with five schools and four  
40 hospitals located on 164 acres. The Medical Center employs more  
41 than 7,500 employees and its current budget is \$767 Million; and

42 WHEREAS, the Medical Center's principal and continuing  
43 purpose is to accomplish the interrelated goals of health  
44 professional education for Mississippi; to teach in a superior  
45 manner the art and science of health care to students of  
46 exceptional promise and talent; to provide high quality treatment  
47 for all patients using the disciplines and specialties of modern  
48 health care; to lead the way to discoveries which will raise the  
49 health level of all Mississippians and, indeed, all mankind; to  
50 foster dedication to life-long learning; to respond to community  
51 needs through continuing education and outreach programs that  
52 extend beyond the campus; and to recruit and retain the caliber of  
53 faculty necessary to meet these goals; and

54 WHEREAS, UMC graduates at all levels are expected to possess  
55 and to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to practice  
56 their disciplines as competent health professionals; and

57 WHEREAS, landmark achievements at UMC include the following:  
58 world's first lung transplant performed by Dr. James D. Hardy,  
59 1963; world's first heart transplant in man performed by Dr. James  
60 D. Hardy, 1964; scientists there are first to identify differences

61 in blood pressure among racial groups, 1960s; Dr. Arthur C. Guyton  
62 receives his first National Institute of Health program project  
63 grant to study "cardiovascular dynamics and their control," 1968,  
64 (the project has been continuously funded for 38 years); dental  
65 researcher discovers breast cancer markers in saliva, 1997;  
66 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute names UMC, with Tougaloo  
67 College and Jackson State University, site of the Jackson Heart  
68 Study, the world's largest study of heart disease risk factors in  
69 African-Americans ever undertaken, 1997 to present; neuroanatomist  
70 discovers the brain cells of suicide victims differ from the brain  
71 cells of those who died from other causes, 1999; team of  
72 scientists discover chronic smokers have biological changes in the  
73 brain similar to those caused by antidepressants, 2001; and  
74 Enterra Therapy device implanted in 13-year-old male gastroparesis  
75 patient, the youngest ever to receive the stomach pacemaker, along  
76 with sister, the first siblings ever to receive the device, 2004;  
77 and

78 WHEREAS, the expeditious growth of UMC into a major academic  
79 health sciences center reflects the deep commitment of the State  
80 of Mississippi, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
81 Higher Learning and the administration and faculty of the  
82 University of Mississippi Medical Center to the continuing  
83 fulfillment of its purpose; and

84 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we mark 50 years of  
85 service to the State of Mississippi by this landmark institution:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
87 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
88 we do hereby commend and congratulate the faculty and  
89 administration of the University of Mississippi Medical Center on  
90 the occasion of its 50th Anniversary celebration, and extend the  
91 best wishes of the Legislature for the future growth and service  
92 of this professional research institution.

93           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
94 Dr. Dan Jones, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at the  
95 University of Mississippi Medical Center, to University of  
96 Mississippi Chancellor Robert Khayat and to the Board of Trustees  
97 of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and be made available to  
98 the Capitol Press Corps.