

By: Senator(s) Butler, Hyde-Smith,
Albritton, Carmichael, Clarke, Dearing,
Frazier, Harden, Horhn, Jackson (15th),
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Little,
Simmons, Thomas, Walls, White

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ALAN
2 TRAVETTE (TRA) HENDERSON OF BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HIS
3 INSPIRATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA.

4 WHEREAS, "Be Gentle With the Baby" is the statement that was
5 made a million times by the Henderson family when their son, Alan
6 Travette (Tra) Henderson, was born with a life-threatening bone
7 disease. Tra was born on June 29, 1998, at Kings Daughters
8 Hospital in Brookhaven, Mississippi. At birth he suffered two
9 broken femur bones in two different places and a broken foot. He
10 was immediately transferred to the University Medical Center in
11 Jackson, Mississippi, and suffered a broken arm upon arrival. At
12 the time, his life expectancy was from six weeks to two years; and

13 WHEREAS, the late Dr. Ronald Kending and other Orthopedic
14 Specialists diagnosed Tra with Osteogenesis Imperfecta disease
15 (fragile bones that break easily). Dr. Kending suggested physical
16 therapy at 12 months of age; at this point, Tra had broken over
17 six femur bones and both arms. When Tra was two years old, he was
18 recommended to the Shriners Hospital in Tampa, Florida, for
19 experimental drug treatment. After two years he was transferred
20 to Shreveport, Louisiana, for therapy to strengthen his bones; and

21 WHEREAS, Osteogenesis Imperfecta is a very rare bone disease
22 diagnosed in the State of Mississippi. There is one out of 30,000
23 born in the State of Mississippi according to the rare bone
24 disease reports. This is a generic defect in children that occurs
25 2% to 7% worldwide. It is classified into four types: Type I
26 (mild breaks); Type II (the most severe complications

27 characterized by breaking bones with no apparent cause); Type III
28 and Type IV (severe breaks); and

29 WHEREAS, Tra had suffered almost 20 breaks by the time he was
30 four years old. Surgery was performed by inserting iron rods in
31 both femurs and his left tibia to hold the bones together so that
32 his bones will not continue to break. By the age of five, Tra was
33 able to stand with braces and a walker and make steps; and

34 WHEREAS, Tra is now seven years old and has suffered over 40
35 broken bones and has been hospitalized in three different states.
36 He is now a patient at the Blair E. Baston Hospital for Children
37 where he is treated every three months for his soft bones; and

38 WHEREAS, due to his illness, Tra was granted a wish trip
39 through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi in July 2005.
40 Tra and his family enjoyed a seven-day trip to Disney World in
41 Orlando, Florida, which gave him a respite from hospitals and
42 doctors for a while. He was also crowned Prince of the
43 Wishmakers' Ball held on February 26, 2006, at the Jackson Country
44 Club; and

45 WHEREAS, he now attends school in his personalized wheelchair
46 at Martin Elementary School, Brookhaven, Mississippi. He
47 demonstrates a sunny, delightful attitude regardless of his
48 health. He is a high-spirited and happy child at all times. Tra
49 is an inspiration to his family and friends; and

50 WHEREAS, thanks to the love and support from friends and
51 family (parents, Willie and Victoria Henderson; and grandparents,
52 Mrs. Alean Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Henderson), Tra is on the
53 road to great success; and

54 WHEREAS, Tra is an inspiration to the State of Mississippi:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
56 MISSISSIPPI, That we do commend and express support for Alan
57 Travette (Tra) Henderson of Brookhaven, Mississippi, for his
58 courageous fight against Osteogenesis Imperfecta, and extend the

59 best wishes of the Senate to this young Mississippian, who is an
60 inspiration to us all.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Tra and his family, and be made available to the Capitol Press
63 Corps.