

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SULLIVAN-SCHEIN CORPORATION FOR  
2 ITS GENEROUS GIFT TO THE CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI, A MOBILE  
3 DENTAL-OFFICE-ON-WHEELS CALLED "TOMORROW'S DENTAL OFFICE TODAY,"  
4 WHICH WILL SERVE COMMUNITIES THAT NEED ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE.

5 WHEREAS, at the ADA Annual Session in Las Vegas, Nevada, the  
6 Sullivan-Schein Corporation gave a substantial and generous gift  
7 to the citizens of Mississippi, a mobile dental-office-on-wheels  
8 called "Tomorrow's Dental Office Today" or TDOT; and

9 WHEREAS, Sullivan-Schein developed Tomorrow's Dental Office  
10 Today in collaboration with the American Dental Association to  
11 exhibit cutting-edge dental treatment technology at the ADA Annual  
12 Session and dental trade shows. For the past 3 years, Tomorrow's  
13 Dental Office Today has been out of the exhibit hall and on  
14 America's highways, providing community dental outreach in 24  
15 communities, including the Mississippi Gulf Coast and City of New  
16 Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; and

17 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Health is planning to  
18 locate this mobile dental facility in the Mississippi Delta  
19 (Clarksdale) and the Mississippi Gulf Coast region to assist  
20 dentists to improve access to dental preventive services and care  
21 for vulnerable populations, including the uninsured and  
22 underinsured. By providing Mississippi with Tomorrow's Dental  
23 Office Today, the Sullivan-Schein Corporation is helping us to  
24 revitalize these communities by improving access to oral health  
25 care and enhancing the equality of life for citizens; and

26 WHEREAS, as the Gulf Coast was reeling from the staggering  
27 efforts of Hurricane Katrina, and Sullivan-Schein Inc., took  
28 advantage of the mobility of Tomorrow's Dental Office Today to

29 take this state-of-the-art facility to Waveland, Mississippi,  
30 where dental volunteers treated residents whose entire community  
31 had been erased. From September 13, 2005 - October 29, 2005,  
32 Tomorrow's Dental Office Today was stationed in Waveland,  
33 Mississippi, in the parking lot of the Super K-Mart on Highway 90.  
34 About 975 people visited the Waveland site and 1077 dental visits  
35 were made for emergency dental care at no cost to those served to  
36 the local community. Of these 975 people, at least 202 people  
37 were residents of Bay St. Louis prior to Hurricane Katrina; and

38 WHEREAS, now, Tomorrow's Dental Office Today will have a  
39 permanent home in the State of Mississippi. Sullivan-Schein Inc.,  
40 has graciously agreed to donate Tomorrow's Dental Office Today to  
41 the Mississippi Department of Health so that Tomorrow's Dental  
42 Office Today can be used to serve communities that need access to  
43 dental care; and

44 WHEREAS, dental decay is a significant health problem in  
45 Mississippi that disproportionately affects rural and low-income  
46 families. A statewide assessment of dental needs conducted in  
47 2005 by the Mississippi Department of Health Office of Primary  
48 Care determined that 62 counties could qualify as dental health  
49 professional shortage areas. Currently, 44 counties have been  
50 designated by the HRSA Office of Workforce Analysis and another 16  
51 are awaiting approval. Coahoma County is considered a  
52 geographical dental health professional shortage area. All 82  
53 Mississippi counties are designated medically underserved areas.

54 WHEREAS, clinical oral health assessments completed during  
55 the 2004-2005 school year for third-grade children enrolled in  
56 Mississippi's public elementary schools, show that 7 in 10  
57 children (69%) have experienced dental decay and 2 in 5 children  
58 (39%) have untreated dental decay or "cavities." Ten percent, or  
59 1 in 10 children, attend school with infection or pain from dental  
60 disease, which means that more than 3,800 third-grade children  
61 have pain or infection because of dental decay; and

62           WHEREAS, Mississippi's African-American children have a  
63 significantly higher prevalence of decay experience and untreated  
64 decay, but a significantly lower prevalence of protective dental  
65 sealants. In addition, almost twice as many African-American  
66 children are in need of urgent care because of pain or infection;  
67 and

68           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
69 substantial contributions of this corporate citizen who has made  
70 dental care possible to many children in the State of Mississippi:

71           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
72 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the Sullivan-Schein Inc.,  
73 for its generous gift to the citizens of Mississippi, a mobile  
74 Dental-Office-On-Wheels called "Tomorrow's Dental Office Today,"  
75 which will serve communities in the hurricane-stricken Mississippi  
76 Gulf Coast and the Mississippi Delta that need access to dental  
77 care, and extend to them the best wishes of the Senate in their  
78 future corporate, civic and charitable activities.

79           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
80 the CEO of Sullivan-Schein Inc., and be forwarded to the State  
81 Board of Health and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.