

By: Senator(s) Witherspoon, Barnett, Blount, Bryan, Burton, Dearing, Frazier, Hopson, Horhn, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Norwood, Simmons (12th) To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 560

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
2 DERRICK JOHNSON AS THE NEWLY INSTALLED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
3 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
4 (NAACP).

5 WHEREAS, on October 21, 2017, the Executive Committee of the
6 NAACP National Board of Directors elected Derrick Johnson
7 President and CEO. Derrick Johnson formerly served as Vice
8 Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors as well as State
9 President for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP; and

10 WHEREAS, a longstanding member and leader of the NAACP, Mr.
11 Johnson will guide the association through a period of
12 reenvisioning and reinvigoration; and

13 WHEREAS, born in Detroit, Mr. Johnson attended Tougaloo
14 College in Jackson, Mississippi. He then continued on to Houston,
15 Texas, to receive his Juris Doctor from the South Texas College of
16 Law. In later years, Mr. Johnson furthered his training through
17 fellowships with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the
18 George Washington University School of Political Management, and
19 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has served as



20 an annual Guest Lecturer at Harvard Law School, lending his
21 expertise to Professor Lani Guinier's course on social movements,
22 and as an Adjunct Professor at Tougaloo College; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson is a veteran activist who has dedicated
24 his career to defending the rights and improving the lives of
25 Mississippians. As State President of the NAACP Mississippi State
26 Conference, he led critical campaigns for voting rights and
27 equitable education. He successfully managed two bond referendum
28 campaigns in Jackson, Mississippi, that brought \$150 Million in
29 school building improvements and \$65 Million toward the
30 construction of a new convention center, respectively. As a
31 Regional Organizer at the Jackson-based nonprofit corporation,
32 Southern Echo, Inc., Mr. Johnson provided legal, technical and
33 training support for communities across the south; and

34 WHEREAS, in recognition for his service to the State of
35 Mississippi, the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court
36 appointed Mr. Johnson to the Mississippi Access to Justice
37 Commission, and the Governor of Mississippi appointed him Chair of
38 the Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal
39 after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina; and

40 WHEREAS, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Johnson
41 founded One Voice, Inc., to improve the quality of life for
42 African-Americans through civic engagement training and
43 initiatives. One Voice has spawned an annual Black Leadership



44 Summit and the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute, a
45 nine-month training program for community leaders; and

46 WHEREAS, founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's
47 oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based Civil
48 Rights organization. It's more than one-half-million members and
49 supporters throughout the United States and the world are the
50 premier advocates for Civil Rights in their communities,
51 campaigning for equal opportunity and conducting voter
52 mobilization; and

53 WHEREAS, we salute the career of a Mississippian whose
54 efforts to remove barriers of racial discrimination have brought
55 honor to his organization and to the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby recognize and congratulate Derrick Johnson as the
59 newly installed President and CEO of the National Association for
60 the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and we extend our best
61 wishes to Mr. Johnson and his family as they embark on this
62 important mission.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 Derrick Johnson, forwarded to the NAACP Mississippi State
65 Conference, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

