

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Browning, Moran, Jolly, Doty, Carmichael, Clarke, Jackson (15th), Younger, Blackwell, Burton, Dearing, DeBar, Fillingane, Jackson (32nd), Kirby, Massey, Seymour, Turner-Ford, Watson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY "BULLDOGS" BASEBALL TEAM AND INTERIM
3 COACH GARY HENDERSON FOR WINNING THE 2018 NCAA TALLAHASSEE
4 REGIONAL AND NASHVILLE SUPER REGIONAL WITH WALK-OFF MAGIC AND FOR
5 ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS IN PROGRAM HISTORY.

6 WHEREAS, we join the Mississippi State University students,
7 alumni and fans in celebrating the "Bulldogs" Baseball Team
8 miracle run to the brink of the 2018 NCAA Championship Series; and

9 WHEREAS, a Mississippi State baseball season full of twists
10 and turns saw its final chapter written on June 23, 2018. A late
11 two-out rally by MSU fell just short in a 5-2 loss to No. 3
12 National Seed Oregon State in the semifinal round of the College
13 World Series played at TD Ameritrade Park. MSU (39-29) fell to
14 Oregon State (53-11-1) on back-to-back days in the event. The
15 Bulldogs won five-straight postseason elimination games before
16 falling to the Beavers; and

17 WHEREAS, the Bulldogs battled hard throughout the season
18 overcoming an early coaching change and an abbreviated home
19 schedule due to construction at Dudy Noble Field to finish 15-15



20 in Southeastern Conference play. In the postseason, the Bulldogs
21 won the Tallahassee Regional and Nashville Super Regional with
22 walk-off magic needed in both places. Overall, the Bulldogs won
23 11 times in their final at-bat this season. The walk-off magic
24 continued in Omaha with MSU defeating Washington 1-0 on the first
25 day of the tournament. A 12-2 win over North Carolina sent the
26 Bulldogs 2-0 in Omaha for only the third time in program history.
27 The magic ran out from there with Oregon State pitching, holding
28 the Bulldogs to nine hits in two games. Oregon State set up the
29 winner-take-all game with a 12-2 victory. Saturday's contest was
30 decided when the Beavers scored five runs after there were two
31 outs in the third inning; and

32 WHEREAS, this season eventually became one that those around
33 the country became enthralled with, and that Mississippi State
34 fans committed themselves to wholly. At its finish, it remains
35 that way, an incredible journey and an unbelievable tale of which
36 thousands witnessed the finale. This was a team that only reached
37 the peak because it went to the depths of the valley first; and

38 WHEREAS, having led Mississippi State to its 10th College
39 World Series appearance, Interim Head Coach Gary Henderson was
40 named 2018 Perfect Game/Rawlings Coach of the Year. Henderson was
41 elevated from the role of Assistant Coach on February 21, 2018,
42 and has led the Diamond Dawgs to a 37-24 mark at the helm.
43 Mississippi State started the season 14-15 overall and 2-7 in
44 Southeastern Conference play, but turned it around at the start of



45 April and since then was 23-12, along with a 10-1 mark against
46 top-five teams. State began its NCAA Tournament run in the
47 Tallahassee Regional and after dropping the opener to Oklahoma,
48 rallied to win four-straight elimination games to claim the
49 Regional and become the 23rd team in the current 64-team NCAA
50 Tournament format to win a Regional after losing its first game.
51 The Diamond Dawgs then faced off against Vanderbilt in the
52 Nashville Super Regional and after each team took a game on a
53 walk-off home run, State punched its ticket to Omaha, Nebraska, by
54 claiming game three in 11 innings; and

55 WHEREAS, on the eve of making his first trip to the College
56 World Series, Mississippi State Junior Jake Mangum was named to
57 the 2018 ABCA/Rawlings South All-Region Second Team, the American
58 Baseball Coaches Association announced. A native of Pearl,
59 Mississippi, Mangum led the Diamond Dawgs in batting average
60 (.353), runs scored (61), hits (97), doubles (21), total bases
61 (133) and stolen bases (14). His 97 hits lead the Southeastern
62 Conference and rank seventh nationally, while his 21 doubles also
63 led the league and has him 28th nationally. Named to the SEC
64 All-Defensive Team and All-SEC Second Team in May, the veteran
65 outfielder had a team-best 13-game hitting streak and in that span
66 averaged .407, with 18 runs scored, three doubles, one triple,
67 three home runs and 16 RBIs; and

68 WHEREAS, the only Freshman to have started in all 61 of
69 Mississippi State's games this season, Tanner Allen's season



70 accolades continued to grow as he was named a Freshman
71 All-American by *Collegiate Baseball Newspaper*. Allen was also the
72 first Freshman All-American infielder for Mississippi State since
73 Shortstop Brandon Turner in 2007. Having started 36 games at
74 first base, Allen batted .302 on the year with 39 runs scored, 17
75 doubles, five triples, five home runs and 42 RBIs. A native of
76 Theodore, Alabama, Allen had a strong offensive weekend at the
77 Tallahassee Regional, supplying six hits, five of which were for
78 extra bases to include three doubles and two home runs. Allen
79 drove in five runs and scored five more in five games. After
80 posting a 1.077 slugging percentage and a .571 on-base percentage
81 during the last weekend of the regular season vs. Florida, Allen
82 was named SEC Freshman of the Week on May 21, 2018; and

83 WHEREAS, less than 24 hours after seeing Mississippi State
84 claim the Tallahassee Regional, Junior left-handed Pitcher Konnor
85 Pilkington had his name called in the third round of the 2018
86 Major League Baseball Draft. Selected by the Chicago White Sox
87 with the 81st overall pick in the third round of the MLB Draft,
88 Pilkington became the 191st selection in MSU history, along with
89 becoming the 146th Diamond Dawg to be drafted. Having served as
90 Mississippi State's Friday-night starter over the past two
91 seasons, the Preseason All-American and former USA Collegiate
92 National Team member has tallied 97 strikeouts in 91.2 innings
93 pitched in 2018. In 16 starts this season, the Junior has a 2-6
94 record and a 4.61 ERA. A native of Hurley, Mississippi,



95 Pilkington is the first Mississippi State pitcher to be drafted
96 since six Bulldog pitchers were taken in the 2016 MLB Draft; and

97 WHEREAS, the 2018 MSU "Bulldogs" Baseball Team Roster is:
98 Zach Neff, LHP; Rowdey Jordan, INF; Tanner Allen, INF/OF; Luke
99 Alexander, INF; Dustin Skelton, C; Jordan Anderson, OF; Josh
100 Hatcher, 1B/LHP; Jordan Westburg, INF; Tanner Poole, OF; Hunter
101 Stovall, INF; Riley Self, RHP; Jake Mangum, OF; Justin Foscue,
102 INF; Keegan James, RHP; Jared Liebelt, RHP; Denver McQuary,
103 RHP/INF; Alex Pender, 1B; Cole Gordon, RHP; Zane Stephens, RHP; JP
104 France, RHP; James Basham, C; Cole Marsh, RHP; Hunter Vansau, OF;
105 Marshall Gilbert, C; Elijah MacNamee, OF/1B; Graham Ashcraft, RHP;
106 Blake Smith, RHP; Kale Breaux, LHP; Ethan Small, LHP; Jacob
107 Billingsley, RHP; Trysten Barlow, LHP; Konnor Pilkington, LHP; and
108 Spencer Price, RHP; Interim Head Coach Gary Henderson; Assistant
109 Coaches Jake Gautreau and Mike Brown; Camps Coordinator/Volunteer
110 Assistant A.J. Gaura; and Coordinator of Baseball Operations
111 Trevor Fitts; and

112 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the Mississippi
113 State University students and alumni in recognizing these
114 outstanding amateur athletes who have brought honor to their
115 university, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

116 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
117 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
118 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Mississippi State
119 University "Bulldogs" Baseball Team and Interim Coach Gary



120 Henderson for winning the 2018 NCAA Tallahassee Regional and
121 Nashville Super Regional with walk-off magic and for one of the
122 best seasons in program history, and extend to the players,
123 coaches, parents and sponsors our best wishes for success in the
124 2019 season.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
126 Mississippi State University Athletic Director John Cohen,
127 forwarded to Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum
128 and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
129 Learning, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

