

By: Senator(s) Blount, Norwood, Simmons
(12th), Simmons (13th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 506

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES
2 COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND EXTENDING THE
3 THANKS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR ITS SUPPORT OF HUMANITIES EDUCATION
4 IN MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Humanities Council was established
6 in 1972, and is celebrating 50 years of serving the people of
7 Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, under the leadership of its founding Executive
9 Director Dr. Cora Norman, her successor, Dr. Barbara Carpenter,
10 and its current Executive Director Dr. Stuart Rockoff, the
11 Mississippi Humanities Council has promoted and supported the
12 public humanities in all 82 counties of Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for
14 the Humanities, the Mississippi Humanities Council has used its
15 federal funding to give grants to nonprofit organizations in
16 Mississippi to support public programs that explore the history
17 and culture of our state and our country; and

18 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Humanities Council has developed a
19 range of programs, including its family reading program, which



20 uses storytellers and discussion to make books come alive for
21 children and their parents; its speakers bureau, which connects
22 humanities scholars with communities around the state; Ideas on
23 Tap, which fosters civil discussion about important contemporary
24 issues; and Museum on Main Street, which has brought ten
25 Smithsonian traveling exhibits to 56 different sites in
26 Mississippi, mostly in small communities; and

27 WHEREAS, with support from the Mississippi Legislature, the
28 Mississippi Humanities Council has administered the Mississippi
29 Oral History Project, supporting community oral history projects
30 statewide and funding the daily "Mississippi Moments" radio
31 broadcast on Mississippi Public Broadcasting; and

32 WHEREAS, in 2018, working with the Center for the Study of
33 Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, the Mississippi
34 Humanities Council launched the *Mississippi Encyclopedia Online*
35 with over 1400 entries about our state's history and culture that
36 have reached over 700,000 users, including people in all 82
37 Mississippi counties, all 50 states, and over 220 countries; and

38 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Humanities Council believes "the
39 humanities are for everyone," and has worked with Hinds Community
40 College, Mississippi Delta Community College, Northeast
41 Mississippi Community College, Mississippi College, and the
42 University of Mississippi to provide for-credit courses for
43 incarcerated students at three Mississippi prisons, earning major
44 financial support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; and



45 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Humanities Council has been a vital
46 partner to all of our state's institutions of higher learning and
47 community colleges, recognizing and supporting outstanding
48 humanities teaching and programs on their campuses; and

49 WHEREAS, during Mississippi's bicentennial year, the
50 Mississippi Humanities Council worked diligently with Visit
51 Mississippi to distribute special bicentennial grants for 88
52 different projects across the state, helping unleash the
53 creativity of Mississippi's communities to understand and
54 celebrate our state's unique history; and

55 WHEREAS, during the recent pandemic, the Mississippi
56 Humanities Council has efficiently and effectively given out over
57 \$1 Million in federal CARES and ARP relief funds to museums,
58 historical societies and other cultural organizations in
59 Mississippi, helping them survive the crisis and thrive in the
60 future; and

61 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Humanities Council is celebrating
62 the 50th Anniversary with a year's worth of public programs on the
63 theme "Reflecting Mississippi," exploring the richness and
64 diversity of our state's stories; and

65 WHEREAS, on the celebration of its 50th Anniversary, the
66 Mississippi Humanities Council looks forward to continuing its
67 service to the State of Mississippi for the next 50 years:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



70 we do hereby commend the Mississippi Humanities Council on the
71 occasion of its 50th Anniversary and extend the thanks of the
72 Legislature for its support of humanities education in Mississippi
73 universities and community colleges.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be presented to
75 Executive Director Dr. Stuart Rockoff, forwarded to the Board of
76 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the State
77 Board for Community Colleges, and made available to the Capitol
78 Press Corps.

