

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Jackson (11th),
Chassaniol, Thomas, Barnett, Butler (38th),
Kirby, McCaughn, Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 558

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DIA
2 CHAWLA OF PILLOW ACADEMY IN GREENWOOD AS THE SECOND MISSISSIPPI
3 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO WIN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN
4 TROPHY, GIVEN TO THE TOP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE IN THE UNITED
5 STATES OF AMERICA.

6 WHEREAS, from an applicant pool of the top 60,000 high school
7 scholar athletes graduating with the Class of 2019 in America, Dia
8 Chawla of Greenwood, Mississippi, was named the National High
9 School Heisman Trophy winner in the award's 28th year. She
10 attended the National Heisman Trophy Ceremony in New York City on
11 December 11, 2021, and was recognized by *ESPN* on national
12 television for being named the top student athlete in the country;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Dia is the second Mississippi High School student to
15 win the national award, joining her brother Sunjay Chawla, who won
16 the national award in 2018. Both of them are the only Mississippi
17 residents to ever win a college or high school Heisman Trophy; and

18 WHEREAS, Dia is a high school senior in Greenwood,
19 Mississippi, and excels in tennis, basketball and dance. She has



20 won two State Championships as the Captain of the Pillow Academy
21 Dance Team, has won a State Singles Tennis Championship, has been
22 to three State Championship Finals, and is a three-year varsity
23 player on a State Championship Pillow Academy Basketball Team; and

24 WHEREAS, Dia is a National Merit Finalist and scored a
25 perfect 36 on the ACT, a score achieved by only 5,000 of the
26 approximate two million students graduating in 2022; and

27 WHEREAS, Dia has excelled in community service, creating the
28 ACT Diversity Prep Class in Greenwood that brought students
29 together from Greenwood High School and Pillow Academy to study
30 and socialize outside the classroom. The class paid 14 students
31 to study together in the fall and work on joint projects, with the
32 students averaging a 2.8 point increase on the ACT on their
33 December testing; and

34 WHEREAS, Dia has volunteered over 500 hours in the Greenwood
35 community during her high school career, including tutoring and
36 taking assignments to students who were struggling with Virtual
37 Learning in the Greenwood Public Schools through a program created
38 by the Boys and Girls Club of Leflore County and Greenwood
39 Consolidated Public School Assistant Superintendent Kelvin Pulley;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, Dia is first in her class at Pillow Academy with a
42 4.92 grade point average. She plans to attend a Division I
43 University and major in Public Policy and study a Pre-Med
44 concentration, with a desire to come back to the Mississippi Delta



45 and improve the health care and educational challenges that the
46 Mississippi Delta faces; and

47 WHEREAS, Dia is the daughter of Suresh and Gauri Chawla of
48 Greenwood, and is the younger sister of Sunjay Chawla, a junior at
49 Southern Methodist University. Her grandfather, Dr. V.K. Chawla,
50 was honored by the Mississippi State Senate in 2008 for his
51 contributions to the education and economic community of the
52 Delta. Dia's brother, Sunjay Chawla, was also honored by the
53 Mississippi State Senate in 2019 for winning the National Heisman
54 Trophy and contributing through community service to the
55 well-being of the Mississippi Delta; and

56 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the citizens of
57 Greenwood, Mississippi, in recognizing a student athlete whose
58 national award has brought honor to her school, her family, her
59 community, and to the State of Mississippi:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
61 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
62 we do hereby commend and congratulate Dia Chawla of Greenwood as
63 the second Mississippi high school student to win the National
64 High School Heisman award, and extend our best wishes to Dia and
65 her family on this high honor.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to
67 Dia Chawla and her family, forwarded to Pillow Academy Headmaster
68 Barrett Donahoe and Greenwood Consolidated School District



69 Assistant Superintendent Kenneth Pulley, and made available to the
70 Capitol Press Corps.

