

By: Senator(s) Blount, Horhn, Norwood,
Simmons (12th), Butler (38th), Frazier,
Jackson (11th), Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF STATE HEALTH OFFICER
2 THOMAS DOBBS, MD, MPH, AS HE LEAVES THIS POSITION AND PAYING
3 TRIBUTE TO HIS HEROIC LEADERSHIP IN COVID-19 AND COMMUNICABLE
4 DISEASE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS IN MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, we join the public health and medical community of
6 the State of Mississippi in commending the career and
7 contributions of State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, who
8 has announced that he will resign from his position in July 2022;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Dobbs began his career at MSDH in 2008, and has
11 held numerous roles, including District Health Officer, State
12 Epidemiologist and Deputy State Health Officer; and

13 WHEREAS, his passion has always been infectious disease
14 treatment, and he has served in various roles related to that
15 field, such as Medical Director for the AIDS Healthcare
16 Foundation, Clinical Consultant for the Southeastern National TB
17 Center and Infectious Disease Consultant for several hospitals
18 throughout Mississippi; and



19 WHEREAS, "I feel the time is right for me to return to the
20 clinical side of medicine, particularly the communicable disease
21 treatment of patients," said Dobbs. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my
22 time at MSDH, particularly working with this dedicated health
23 staff and advancing the field of health equity in Mississippi;"
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Dobbs said he also would like to step back into
26 the academic world. He has held numerous faculty positions at
27 colleges and universities throughout the Southeast, including at
28 the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and he would love to
29 teach and train healthcare professionals about public health and
30 infectious disease; and

31 WHEREAS, State Board of Health Chairman Thad Waites, MD,
32 MACC, says the Board has always fully supported Dr. Dobbs in his
33 role as Mississippi's State Health Officer but understands his
34 desire to return to the clinical side of medicine. "I speak for
35 all of us when I say that we have truly appreciated his
36 professionalism, sterling personality and stellar leadership
37 throughout his tenure, but especially during COVID. He has been a
38 wonderful asset to Mississippi," said Waites; and

39 WHEREAS, we commend the professional career of this most
40 public-spirited public health citizen of Mississippi, we are
41 grateful for his leadership during COVID-19 and other challenging
42 public health issues and are confident that Dr. Dobbs will find



43 his way to the front lines of helping his fellow Mississippians in
44 his next role:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the career of State
47 Health Officer Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, as he leaves this position
48 and paying tribute to his heroic leadership in communicable
49 disease treatment of patients in Mississippi, and extend to Dr.
50 Dobbs and his family our best wishes for future success as he
51 assumes his next healthcare role.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
53 Dr. Thomas Dobbs and his family, forwarded to the State Board of
54 Health, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

