

By: Representative Bennett

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. KIM S. BENTON
2 UPON HER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AS
3 INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Kim S. Benton, a renowned educator,
5 administrator and champion of public education, is being honored
6 for her exceptional leadership as interim state superintendent of
7 education; and

8 WHEREAS, as a staunch believer in earning an education, Dr.
9 Benton, who is a Meridian native and resident of Hickory,
10 Mississippi, earned the following degrees: associates of arts
11 degree, Meridian Community College (1981); bachelor of science
12 degree in elementary education, Mississippi State University
13 (MSU), Magna Cum Laude (1982); master's degree in elementary
14 education (1986), educational specialist degree in elementary
15 education and education leadership, MSU (1991) and a doctorate
16 (Ed.D.), curriculum and instruction, MSU, secondary emphasis on
17 educational leadership (2000); and



18 WHEREAS, Dr. Benton, who has over 40 years of extraordinary
19 experience working in public education, has served in a variety of
20 roles such as interim superintendent of schools for the
21 Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the Mississippi
22 Department of Education (MDE) interim deputy state superintendent/
23 chief academic officer - a role she held immediately before being
24 appointed as the interim leader of the Magnolia State's public
25 school districts; and

26 WHEREAS, notably, while serving as MDE's chief academic
27 officer, Dr. Benton was in charge of implementing several
28 distinguished initiatives such as the Early Childhood
29 Collaborative Act, the Mississippi College and Career Readiness
30 Standards and the Literacy Based Promotion Act, which speaks
31 volumes of the positive impact she has had on this great state's
32 public education system; and

33 WHEREAS, Dr. Benton, throughout her vast educational career,
34 began as a teacher's assistant and she served in the Meridian
35 Public School District as a teacher, principal and executive
36 director of special populations and federal programs before making
37 vast contributions with the MDE in a variety of capacities, and
38 she also served as an associate professor at William Carey
39 University as well as an adjunct instructor for MSU and the
40 University of West Alabama, where she taught courses in leadership
41 and curriculum and instruction; and



42 WHEREAS, in addition to her professional experience, Dr.
43 Benton has served in a variety of leadership roles, some of which
44 include: state president, building representative, scholarship
45 committee and board of directors of the Mississippi Professional
46 Educators; board member of the Mississippi Association of Federal
47 Program Directors; state president and board of directors of the
48 Mississippi Early Childhood Association and member of the Child
49 Technology Advisory Council of Meridian Community College; and

50 WHEREAS, Dr. Benton, due to her powerful impact in public
51 education, has been recognized by a variety of entities, some of
52 which include: Mississippi Association of School Administrators -
53 Golden Lamp Award (2018); United States Employer Support of the
54 Guard and Reserve, Patriot Award (2015); Meridian Community
55 College Alumnus of the Year (2014); Mississippi State University
56 Alumnus of the Year, MSU-Meridian (2013); Phi Delta
57 Kappa-Lauderdale County Educator of the Year (2006); Mississippi
58 Association of Elementary School Principals, Mississippi
59 Distinguished Principal (2004); MSU - Jayne Sargent Award,
60 Outstanding Female Administrator (2000) and Teacher of the Year -
61 West Hills Elementary (1987), (1990) and (1993); and

62 WHEREAS, throughout all of her endeavors, Dr. Benton, who is
63 an active member of First Baptist Newton, has been lovingly
64 supported by her husband, Gary, their five children and wonderful
65 grandchildren; and



66 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives of
67 the State of Mississippi to honor an exceptional educational
68 leader such as Dr. Benton, who throughout her over 40 years in
69 public education, has left an indelible mark on the fabric of
70 public education that will be honored and implemented for
71 generations to come:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
74 commend and congratulate Dr. Kim S. Benton upon her exceptional
75 service to the State of Mississippi as interim state
76 superintendent of education, and we wish her well in all of her
77 future endeavors.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
79 furnished to Dr. Kim S. Benton and to the members of the Capitol
80 Press Corps.

