

By: Representatives Gibbs (72nd), Foster

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123

1 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 15, 2024, AS "DON'T SUGARCOAT
2 IT DAY" AT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE CAPITOL.

3 WHEREAS, the brainchild of newly crowned Miss Mississippi
4 State University 2024, Miss Morgan Alexis Nelson, "Don't Sugarcoat
5 It: Facing Our Healthcare Crisis, One Rural Area at a Time" is
6 her community service initiative platform aimed at facing
7 Mississippi's health challenges in the rural outreaches of the
8 state, one community at a time; and

9 WHEREAS, a junior biological science/pre-med major at
10 Mississippi State University, where she is a presidential scholar
11 with a 3.91 GPA, Morgan, a Vicksburg native and daughter of
12 Attorney Omar and Melanie Nelson, has made an appeal to the
13 Mississippi Legislature to designate, Monday, April 15, 2024, as
14 "Don't Sugarcoat It Day" at the Mississippi State Capitol,
15 garnering legislative support to challenge Mississippians to
16 consume low amounts of sugar, and to increase awareness of
17 Mississippi's recurring high rates of diabetes, obesity, heart
18 disease and other diseases linked to unhealthy dietary habits; and



19 WHEREAS, a Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholar recipient,
20 Miss Nelson plans to attend the University of Mississippi School
21 of Medicine upon her graduation from MSU, to further the pursuit
22 of her medical aspirations to become an OB/GYN physician to ensure
23 quality healthcare to the far reaches of the state which have
24 consistently experienced disparities in access to healthcare; and

25 WHEREAS, diabetes is a disease with serious health
26 consequences, affecting 1 in 7 Mississippians, placing the state
27 in the top five nationally for diabetes rates, as it accounted for
28 1,083 deaths in Mississippi in 2016, and Morgan's initiative,
29 seeks to provide insight on the negative implications of poor
30 dietary decisions upon those who are genetically pre-disposed to
31 diabetes and other health deficiencies impacted by sugar intake;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, heeding a call to action, as indicated by her
34 affiliation and memberships with the MSU Dance Team, Alpha Kappa
35 Alpha Sorority, Inc., Brickfire Mentoring, Spark, Biological
36 Science Ambassador, IDEAL Woman and More Than Numbers Youth
37 Program, Miss Nelson's decision to build upon her "Don't Sugarcoat
38 It" platform evidences her innate passion for all Mississippians
39 to experience a quality of life premised on healthy lifestyle
40 choices and access to optimal healthcare services; and

41 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
42 advocate for all Mississippians, especially when it relates to
43 relaying information that would prove beneficial, the health



44 outcomes, as promoted by Miss Nelson's "Don't Sugarcoat It: Facing
45 Our Healthcare Crisis, One Rural Area at a Time" community service
46 initiative:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
49 designate Monday, April 15, 2024, as "Don't Sugarcoat It Day" at
50 the Mississippi State Capitol, and encourage all Mississippians to
51 acknowledge its observance by increased awareness of low sugar
52 intake on that day.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
54 furnished to Miss Morgan Alexis Nelson and to the members of the
55 Capitol Press Corps.

