

By: Senator(s) Harden, Gordon, Dearing,  
Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 579

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND DR. JAYNE SARGENT UPON THE  
2 OCCASION OF HER IMPENDING RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
3 JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Jayne Sargent, Superintendent of the Jackson  
5 Public School District since 1997, is the first woman to hold that  
6 post; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Sargent has announced her retirement after five  
8 years as head of the 32,000 student district, effective June 30,  
9 2002; and

10 WHEREAS, she has spent the bulk of her 35-year public  
11 education career in Jackson; and

12 WHEREAS, a 1967 graduate of Tougaloo College, Dr. Sargent  
13 worked two years in the library at Jackson State University,  
14 moving in 1969 to be a Jackson Public Schools librarian for Boyd  
15 and McLeod Elementary Schools; and

16 WHEREAS, eight years later she became Assistant Principal at  
17 Callaway High School, then served as Principal at Powell Middle  
18 School and later Jim Hill High School; and

19 WHEREAS, Meridian schools hired her away from Jackson as  
20 Assistant Superintendent in 1991, and she was promoted to  
21 Superintendent during her tenure in Meridian; and

22 WHEREAS, Deputy Superintendent Ron Sellers has praised Dr.  
23 Sargent, saying, "She is a woman of faith. What that comes across  
24 as, is compassion to help people"; and

25 WHEREAS, Sargent's retirement comes as a double loss for the  
26 State of Mississippi, because, with her retirement, she will also  
27 resign her school administrator position on the State Board of



28 Education where, State Superintendent of Education Richard  
29 Thompson says, her calm perspective will be missed; and

30 WHEREAS, among her many accomplishments in Jackson are: an  
31 aggressive building program financed through state or federal  
32 funds or school district loans; a district testing program for  
33 third and sixth graders to determine whether students can pass to  
34 the next grade; and the Morrison Academic Advancement Center for  
35 eighth-graders who need a boost to catch up on academics; and

36 WHEREAS, she is perhaps best known for her commitment to  
37 academic excellence; and

38 WHEREAS, Sargent has shepherded the district through a series  
39 of state and local budget problems, never wavering in her  
40 commitment to the task at hand; and

41 WHEREAS, Dr. Sargent's deep and abiding love for the children  
42 of the district have guided her vision for the public schools; and

43 WHEREAS, she credits much of her success to the example of  
44 her parents. The only child of a school-teacher mom and a  
45 hard-working father, she was expected to do well in school, and  
46 did, acquiring a life-long love of learning in the process; and

47 WHEREAS, she is widely regarded as having done a tremendous  
48 job as superintendent, with her greatest accomplishment being the  
49 restoration of the public's confidence in Jackson Public Schools;  
50 and

51 WHEREAS, she has been an icon of confidence and strength and  
52 has always brought credit to the school district; and

53 WHEREAS, one of her great talents is to inspire good people  
54 at the school-building level to do their best and not be afraid to  
55 think out-of-the-box to create new programs and find innovative  
56 solutions to problems; and

57 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
58 the contributions to the quality of life in this state made by  
59 dedicated citizens, and especially those who work with the youth  
60 of this state, who are the future:



61           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
63 we do hereby recognize and commend Dr. Jayne Sargent for her  
64 outstanding career as an educator, and extend to her the  
65 Legislature's congratulations upon her upcoming retirement with  
66 the thanks of a grateful state for her devotion to learning and  
67 love of the students she has served.

68           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
69 presented to Dr. Sargent, the Jackson Public School District and  
70 the Capitol Press Corps.

