

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Chaney, Browning, Burton, Butler, Clarke, Davis, Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Harvey, Hewes, Jackson (15th), King, Lee (35th), Little, Michel, Moffatt, Nunnelee, Robertson, Simmons, Thames, Walls, White To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 514

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC
2 SERVICE OF DR. RODERICK R. (ROD) PAIGE OF MONTICELLO, MISSISSIPPI,
3 THE FIRST MISSISSIPPIAN, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THE FIRST
4 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TO SERVE AS UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
5 EDUCATION.

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Roderick Raynor (Rod) Paige was confirmed by the
7 United States Senate as the 7th United States Secretary of
8 Education on January 20, 2001, following the inauguration of
9 President George W. Bush. Paige, who grew up in Mississippi,
10 built a career on a belief that education equalizes opportunity,
11 moving from college dean and school superintendent to be the first
12 African-American to serve as the nation's education chief; and

13 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2004, Dr. Paige announced his
14 resignation after overseeing the President's education agenda for
15 four years; and

16 WHEREAS, born in Monticello, Mississippi, on June 17, 1933,
17 Secretary Paige is the son of public school educators. He earned
18 a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University in Mississippi
19 and a master's degree and a doctorate from Indiana University at
20 Bloomington; and

21 WHEREAS, Paige began working with students early in his
22 career as a teacher and a coach. He then served for a decade as
23 Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University
24 (TSU). In this position, Paige worked to ensure that future
25 educators would receive the training and expertise necessary to
26 succeed in the classroom. He also established the university's
27 Center for Excellence in Urban Education, a research facility that

28 concentrates on issues related to instruction and management in
29 urban school systems; and

30 WHEREAS, elected in 1989, Paige was sworn in as a trustee and
31 an officer of the Board of Education of the Houston Independent
32 School District (HISD) in January 1990, in which capacities he
33 served until 1994. In 1994, Paige left TSU to become
34 superintendent of HISD, the nation's seventh largest school
35 district. *Inside Houston* magazine named Paige one of "Houston's
36 25 most powerful people" in guiding the city's growth and
37 prosperity. In 2001, he was named National Superintendent of the
38 Year by the American Association of School Administrators; and

39 WHEREAS, Paige is the first school superintendent to serve as
40 Secretary of Education. His vast experience as a practitioner,
41 from the blackboard to the boardroom, paid off during the long
42 hours of work needed to pass President Bush's "No Child Left
43 Behind Act of 2001"; and

44 WHEREAS, he has led the charge, in partnership with states
45 and school districts, to implement these historic reforms. The
46 law will give local districts the tools and resources they need to
47 help every child learn, regardless of the color of their skin or
48 the accent of their speech. States and districts have moved
49 forward, working to improve student achievement, empowering
50 parents with options and information, providing supplemental
51 services such as free tutoring to students in danger of being left
52 behind in the classroom, and tapping new sources of talented
53 teachers to help students excel in our nation's classrooms. By
54 June 2003, every state, including Mississippi, had an approved
55 accountability plan in place to ensure that every student was
56 learning; and

57 WHEREAS, as Secretary, Paige has held the Department of
58 Education to the same high standards expected of our schools. The
59 department-wide implementation of Dr. Paige's blueprint
60 streamlined operations, and provided strategic direction,

61 resources and focus for the department's central mission to ensure
62 equal access to education and promote educational excellence
63 throughout the nation. As a result of this work, the department
64 received its second clean financial audit in a row in fiscal year
65 2003, only the third in the 24-year history of the department.
66 The department's accomplishment also received the highest praise
67 from the federal Office of Management and Budget; and

68 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
69 outstanding performance and dedicated career of this Mississippian
70 whose vision for public education has strengthened school support
71 and programs:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
74 we do hereby commend the legacy of public service of Dr. Roderick
75 R. (Rod) Paige of Monticello, Mississippi, the first school
76 superintendent to serve as United States Secretary of Education,
77 on the occasion of his retirement from office, and extend to him
78 and his family the best wishes of the Legislature on his future
79 professional activities.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
81 Mississippi's congressional delegation and the United States
82 Department of Education, and be made available to the Capitol
83 Press Corps.