

## HJR152 INTRODUCED



1 HJR152  
2 3PNB3ZZ-1  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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4 HJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING DR. SHANNEN DEE WILLIAMS FOR PROFESSIONAL  
5 ACHIEVEMENTS AND LASTING IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
6 PERTAINING TO WOMEN AND RELIGION.

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8 WHEREAS, with great pleasure and pride, highest  
9 commendations are conveyed to Dr. Shannen Dee Williams for  
10 her professional achievements and lasting impact on African  
11 American History, particularly in regard to women and  
12 religion; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Williams earned her Bachelor of Arts in  
14 History with magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors from  
15 Agnes Scott College; a Master of Arts in Afro-American  
16 Studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison; and a  
17 Doctor of Philosophy in History from Rutgers University; she  
18 is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American  
19 Historians and an Associate Professor of History at the  
20 University of Dayton; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Williams' research on the African  
22 American experience, with specializations in women's,  
23 religious, and Black freedom movement history, has been  
24 supported by a host of grants and fellowships, including a  
25 Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the Schomburg Center for  
26 Research in Black Culture, a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral  
27 Fellowship in Religion and Ethics from the Woodrow Wilson  
28 National Foundation, an Albert J. Beveridge Grant from the



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American Historical Association, and the John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award from the American Catholic Historical Association; her work has been published in the *Journal of African American History*, *American Catholic Studies*, *The Washington Post*, *America Magazine*, *U.S. Catholic*, and the *National Catholic Reporter*; she penned the award-winning column, "The Griot's Cross" in the Catholic News Service from 2020 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams authored *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle*, which was named a top five book published in religion by *Publisher's Weekly*; received the 2022 Letitia Woods Brown Award for Best Book in African American Women's History from the Association of Black Women Historians; and the 2023 Wesley-Logan Prize for Outstanding Book in African Diaspora History from the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Catholic, Dr. Williams is the first Black woman elected to the Executive Council of the American Catholic Historical Association; she is a co-founder of the Fleming-Morrow Endowment in African American History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; she successfully submitted proposals to establish the Mother Mary Lange Lecture in Black Catholic History at Villanova University and the Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., Prize through the American Catholic Historical Association and the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the



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57 University of Notre Dame; now therefore,  
58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
59 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That for her lasting impact on  
60 African American history, particularly women's and religious  
61 history, and for her notable professional accomplishments,  
62 Dr. Shannen Dee Williams is highly commended, and this  
63 resolution is offered to her as evidence of our high regard  
64 with best wishes for continued success, blessings, and  
65 prosperity.