

## HJR323 INTRODUCED



1 HJR323  
2 L59LPAY-1  
3 By Representatives Hall, Rigsby, Lomax, Reynolds, Whitt,  
4 Lands, Daniels  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 01-May-25



1  
2  
3 HJR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING DR. LESLIE N. POLLARD ON SERVING HIS 15TH  
4 YEAR AS PRESIDENT OF OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY.  
5

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min.,  
7 M.Div., MBA, has faithfully served as the 11th President of  
8 Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, for 15 years,  
9 becoming the longest-serving president in the institution's  
10 129-year history; and

11 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Dr. Pollard has  
12 successfully led Oakwood University through two  
13 institutional accreditations, the establishment of the  
14 School of Graduate Studies, and the launch of four new  
15 graduate degree programs, further strengthening the  
16 university's academic excellence; and

17 WHEREAS, under Dr. Pollard's leadership, Oakwood  
18 University has completed more than \$70,000,000 in new  
19 construction and renovations, including the Community Health  
20 Action Center, which provides accessible health care to  
21 underserved communities through a strategic partnership with  
22 Huntsville Hospital; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has advanced student wellness  
24 and engagement by launching the nationally recognized  
25 "Healthy Campus 2020" initiative, championing holistic  
26 health practices and promoting student spiritual commitment  
27 through the LifeCore study; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has expanded Oakwood



## HJR323 INTRODUCED

University's athletic and academic achievements, overseeing championship-winning sports teams, growing the university's athletic program within the NAIA, and celebrating multiple Honda Campus All-Star Challenge victories; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has prioritized diversity and inclusion, successfully increasing Latino student enrollment by 400 percent and African continental student enrollment by 1000 percent, while establishing the Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership Research and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Pollard's guidance, Oakwood University has transitioned to a Level V doctoral-degree granting institution, with multiple new master's programs, including an MSW program that launched in 2023, further enhancing graduate education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has demonstrated exceptional philanthropic leadership, securing the largest individual donation, corporate donation, and single grant award in Oakwood University's history, while significantly increasing the institution's endowment and grant funding by nearly 200 percent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has ensured Oakwood University remains engaged with the broader Huntsville community, leading initiatives such as the OUCare Work Scholarship program, the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering partnership, and the hiring of 98 community health workers through a federal grant; and

WHEREAS, his visionary leadership has resulted in



## HJR323 INTRODUCED

57 extensive capital improvements across campus, including new  
58 academic buildings, student facilities, and renovations that  
59 continue to elevate Oakwood University's standing in higher  
60 education; and

61 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard serves in numerous professional  
62 leadership capacities, including Chair of the Board of  
63 Presidents for the Association of Alabama Independent  
64 Colleges and Universities and Executive Secretary of the  
65 United Negro College Fund Council of Presidents, further  
66 cementing his legacy of service; and

67 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard is a devoted husband to Dr.  
68 Prudence Pollard and a loving father and grandfather,  
69 demonstrating unwavering faith, integrity, and commitment to  
70 family and faith-based education; now therefore,

71 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
72 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize and commend Dr.  
73 Leslie N. Pollard for his exemplary leadership,  
74 transformative contributions to Oakwood University, and  
75 unwavering commitment to academic excellence and community  
76 service.