

HR151 INTRODUCED



1 HR151
2 BYHTAQJ-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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HR_____ COMMENDING DR. SHANNEN DEE WILLIAMS FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND LASTING IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY PERTAINING TO WOMEN AND RELIGION.

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

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

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



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

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

47 WHEREAS, a lifelong Catholic, Dr. Williams is the
48 first Black woman elected to the Executive Council of the
49 American Catholic Historical Association; she is a
50 co-founder of the Fleming-Morrow Endowment in African
51 American History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville;
52 she successfully submitted proposals to establish the Mother
53 Mary Lange Lecture in Black Catholic History at Villanova
54 University and the Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., Prize through the
55 American Catholic Historical Association and the Cushwa
56 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
59 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, 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.

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