

## HR322 INTRODUCED



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2     6YPEA33-1  
3     By Representatives Hall, Rigsby, Lomax, Lands, Reynolds,  
4     Whitt, Daniels  
5     RFD:  
6     First Read: 01-May-25



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4 HR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING DR. LESLIE N. POLLARD ON SERVING HIS 15TH  
5 YEAR AS PRESIDENT OF OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY.  
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7 WHEREAS, Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min.,  
8 M.Div., MBA, has faithfully served as the 11th President of  
9 Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, for 15 years,  
10 becoming the longest-serving president in the institution's  
11 129-year history; and

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

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

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



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29 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has expanded Oakwood  
30 University's athletic and academic achievements, overseeing  
31 championship-winning sports teams, growing the university's  
32 athletic program within the NAIA, and celebrating multiple  
33 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge victories; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. Pollard has prioritized diversity and  
35 inclusion, successfully increasing Latino student enrollment  
36 by 400 percent and African continental student enrollment by  
37 1000 percent, while establishing the Anna Knight Center for  
38 Women's Leadership Research and the Office of Diversity and  
39 Inclusion; and

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

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

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



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

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

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

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