

1 HJR103
2 211409-1
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Sanderford, Ball, Whorton,
4 Daniels, Whitt and Reynolds
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 09-MAR-21

COMMENDING MRS. SONCERIA ANN BISHOP BERRY AS THE
FIRST BLACK SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

WHEREAS, it is an honor to extend highest
commendations to Mrs. Sonceria Ann Bishop Berry as the first
black Secretary of the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, after four decades in Washington, D.C.,
Mrs. Berry was sworn in as the first black Secretary of the
United States Senate on the first day of Women's History
Month, March 1, 2021; a native of Birmingham, Alabama, she is
the eighth woman to serve in the position; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry was born on July 24, 1955, to
Maxie and Mattie Bishop and is the oldest of four children;
after graduating from the former Phillips High School, she
attended The University of North Alabama, where she earned a
Bachelor Degree in Education in May 1978; she is married to
Reginald Berry, and they have a daughter, Elizabeth Berry; and

WHEREAS, following her college graduation, Mrs.
Berry accepted a position with South Central Bell, where she
worked in the engineering department as a secretary; after

1 working with South Central Bell for almost one year, she was
2 contacted by the office of the late Senator Howell Heflin and
3 was asked to discuss possible employment opportunities with
4 them; eventually, she was offered a position, and she
5 relocated to Washington, D.C., as a staffer for the late
6 Senator; she has achieved much success over the four decades
7 that she has been serving in Washington, D.C.; in 2017, she
8 led former Senator Doug Jones's transition team after he won a
9 special election to replace former Senator Jeff Sessions; Mrs.
10 Berry most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for
11 Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont; and

12 WHEREAS, a woman of unwavering dedication, steadfast
13 leadership, and a selfless heart, Mrs. Berry has made history,
14 and she and her story will indeed continue to inspire many;
15 now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mrs. Sonceria Ann Bishop Berry
18 is warmly commended as the first black Secretary of the United
19 States Senate, and this resolution hereby serves as a tribute
20 to her with utmost gratitude, admiration, and regard.