

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1326

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Bestselling author ReShonda Tate Billingsley has
2 enjoyed remarkable success as a writer, and she is truly deserving
3 of special recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Billingsley
5 graduated from Madison High School in Houston in 1987, and after
6 earning her bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at
7 Austin in 1991, she began her career in broadcast journalism,
8 working as a television anchor and reporter in Port Arthur,
9 Oklahoma City, and Houston before becoming a full-time author; she
10 has also worked as a reporter and editor at the *Houston Defender* and
11 as a professor of broadcast journalism at Langston University; and

12 WHEREAS, After receiving multiple rejections from
13 publishers, Ms. Billingsley founded her own company to publish her
14 first novel, *My Brother's Keeper*, in 2001; the book was
15 subsequently republished by Simon and Schuster, and it received the
16 Gold Pen Award for Best New Author from the Black Writer's Alliance
17 and the Nova Lee Nation Award from the Greater Dallas Writing
18 Association; since then, she has published dozens of books,
19 including *Say Amen, Again*, which received the NAACP Image Award for
20 Outstanding Literature; her national bestseller *Let the Church Say*
21 *Amen* was cited in Library Journal's list of the best Christian
22 fiction of 2004, and it was made into a film directed by Regina
23 King; and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Billingsley is also the author of the Good Girlz

1 series for teen readers and two nonfiction works, *The Motherhood*
2 *Diaries* and *The Motherhood Diaries 2*, and she has written four
3 successful books in collaboration with Victoria Christopher
4 Murray, *Sinners and Saints*, *Friends and Foes*, *A Blessing and a*
5 *Curse*, and *Fortune and Fame*; in addition, she is a sought-after
6 motivational speaker, and she has appeared in minor roles in two of
7 the films based on her books; and

8 WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, Ms. Billingsley enjoys the
9 love and support of her husband, Dr. Miron Billingsley, and her
10 three children, Mya, Morgan, and Myles; and

11 WHEREAS, For the past 20 years, ReShonda Tate Billingsley has
12 delighted and inspired readers of all ages with her lively and
13 engaging books, and she may indeed take great pride in her
14 impressive record of literary achievement; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commend ReShonda Tate Billingsley on her many
17 accomplishments as a writer and extend to her sincere best wishes
18 for continued success; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Ms. Billingsley as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.