

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry upon her selection as the keynote speaker at the American Association of University Women National Convention

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry upon her selection as the keynote
3 speaker at the American Association of University Women National Convention.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry is an American author, political scientist, and liberal
5 political commentator with a focus on African American politics and the host of the Melissa
6 Harris-Perry television show on MSNBC; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry was born in Seattle, Washington and raised between
8 the cities of Charlottesville and Chester, Virginia where she attended Thomas Dale High
9 School, and is the youngest of five children; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry is heir to the esteemed intellectual and enlightening
11 pedigree of her parents, as her father William M. Harris Sr., was dean of Afro-American
12 affairs at the University of Virginia, and her mother Diana Gray, taught at a community
13 college and worked for nonprofit organizations with the admirable focus of assisting poor
14 communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry received a bachelor of arts in English from Wake
16 Forest University in 1994, a doctor of philosophy in political science from Duke University
17 in 1999, and an honorary doctorate degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry taught political science at the University of Chicago
20 from 1999 to 2005, taught politics and African American studies as an associate professor

1 at Princeton University from 2006 to 2010, and is currently a professor of political science
2 at Tulane University; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry is the author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*, which focuses on the methods African
4 Americans use to develop political ideas through ordinary conversations in places like
5 barbershops, churches, and popular culture; and
6

7 WHEREAS, this particular work won the 2005 W.E.B. DuBois Book Award from
8 the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and the 2005 Best Book Award from
9 the Race and Ethnic Politics Division of the American Political Science Association; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry was the key note speaker for the Unitarian Universalist
11 Association on "Faith and Reason: Race, Justice, and American Political Life" in 2009; and

12 WHEREAS, MSNBC announced on January 5, 2012 that Harris-Perry would host
13 her own weekend show, which would begin airing on February 18, 2012; and

14 WHEREAS, she became motivated to better understand the role of the black church
15 in political movements during her tenure as a master of divinity student at Union Theological
16 Seminary of New York City; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry considers her Wake Forest mentor, Dr. Maya Angelou,
18 to be her most important inspiration for becoming a professor; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry currently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, is married
20 to 2010 mayoral candidate James Perry, and the very proud mother of her daughter, Parker;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, her interests and affiliations include the study of African American
23 political thought, black religious ideas and practice, and social and clinical psychology, and
24 active membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and

25 WHEREAS, on June 9 through 12, 2013, the motivated and empowered members
26 of the American Association of University Women will visit the great city of New Orleans
27 to celebrate their national convention with the theme "Breaking through Barriers: Leading
28 across Generations"; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry has been selected as a keynote speaker for the
30 American Association of University Women National Convention.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry
3 upon her selection as the keynote speaker at the American Association of University Women
4 National Convention.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
6 to Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Cox

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Commends Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry upon her selection as the keynote speaker at the American Association of University Woman National Convention.