

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HR 1022

4
5 By: Representative Brooks

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO WELCOME DR. BRENDAN KELLY AS PRESIDENT OF THE
10 ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO WELCOME DR. BRENDAN KELLY AS
15 PRESIDENT OF THE ARKANSAS STATE
16 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

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18 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly began his tenure as the third President of
19 the Arkansas State University system on September 23, 2024; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State University System is based in Little Rock
22 and serves more than thirty-five thousand (35,000) students annually on
23 campuses in Arkansas and Mexico, and globally online; and

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25 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly served as president of the University of
26 West Georgia for four years before becoming President of the Arkansas State
27 University system; and

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29 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly's focus at the University of West Georgia
30 was innovative programming both inside and outside the classroom with an
31 emphasis on creating valuable life and career outcomes for students, with a
32 commitment to launch and advance student careers upon graduation; and

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34 WHEREAS, while serving at the University of West Georgia, Dr. Brendan
35 Kelly served on the board of directors of multiple regional and state
36 economic development entities as well as the Atlanta Regional Higher



1 Education Consortium; and

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3 WHEREAS, while leading and implementing the "Becoming UWG"
4 institutional strategic plan at the University of West Georgia, Dr. Brendan
5 Kelly led the university to recordbreaking fundraising efforts, including the
6 largest gift in institutional history, and oversaw an enrollment resurgence;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly also served in the past as Chancellor of the
10 University of South Carolina Upstate, was appointed Interim President of the
11 University of South Carolina, and was Vice President of University
12 Advancement and President of the UWF Foundation, Inc., at the University of
13 West Florida; and

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15 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly also taught communication arts for thirteen
16 (13) years in Michigan and Florida; and

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18 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly is a member of the Board of Directors of the
19 American Association of State Colleges and Universities and was named one of
20 the Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine and James Magazine
21 Online; and

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23 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly was active with the National Forensic
24 Association and speech and debate competition for many years, and was honored
25 as a National Forensic Association Hall of Fame inductee and also with the
26 National Forensic Association Eddie Myers Distinguished Service Award; and

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28 WHEREAS, Dr. Brendan Kelly received a Bachelor of Science in Public
29 Relations and a Master of Arts in Communications at Eastern Michigan
30 University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Rhetoric and Political
31 Communication at Wayne State University; and

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33 WHEREAS, Arkansas State University system trustee Price Gardner, who
34 chaired the search on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State
35 University system, said of Dr. Brendan Kelly, "He has been described as a
36 visionary, [a] talented communicator, and a person with the ability to

1 elevate the reputation of the institution and further its mission",

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL

5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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7 THAT the House of Representatives welcome Dr. Brendan Kelly as

8 President of the Arkansas State University system.

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be

11 provided to Dr. Brendan Kelly by the Chief Clerk of the House of

12 Representatives.

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