

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

HR 1053

4  
5 By: Representative J. Richardson  
6

7  
8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY,  
10 INCORPORATED AND PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., FOR  
11 THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE STATE  
12 OF ARKANSAS, THE NATION, AND THE WORLD.  
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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ZETA PHI BETA  
17 SORORITY, INCORPORATED AND PHI BETA  
18 SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., FOR THEIR  
19 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE  
20 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE NATION, AND THE  
21 WORLD.  
22

23 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma  
24 Fraternity, Inc., are forever linked by their sororal and fraternal bonds to  
25 each other and by their mutual devotion to uplifting their members' lives and  
26 serving their communities; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded January 16,  
29 1920, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., during a time of often  
30 violent racial turmoil in the nation but also the Harlem Renaissance, one of  
31 the first important domestic movements of Black artists and writers in the  
32 United States; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated serves and advocates for  
35 health justice both domestically and globally and remains poised for  
36 perpetual service to mankind into its second century of existence and beyond;



1 and

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3 WHEREAS, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated uphold the  
4 sorority's ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood;

5 and

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7 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has eight hundred  
8 seventy-five (875) chapters in the United States, two thousand five hundred  
9 (2,500) Friends of Zeta, and over two thousand (2,000) youth auxiliaries; and

10

11 WHEREAS, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated encourage  
12 achievement of academic excellence by all members and have given three  
13 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) to college students over  
14 the past five (5) years as well as the annual Pearl Anna Neal Scholarship,  
15 given every year since 2021 in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand  
16 dollars (\$125,000); and

17

18 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a community-conscious,  
19 action-oriented organization dedicated to transforming the lives of others,  
20 and has positively impacted over five million (5,000,000) people's lives via  
21 its one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) Z-Hope Programs and donations  
22 totaling more than eight million dollars (\$8,000,000); and

23

24 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was the first National  
25 Pan-Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a national  
26 headquarters, to charter a chapter in Africa, to form auxiliary groups, and  
27 to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,  
28 Inc.; and

29

30 WHEREAS, members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated have included  
31 author Zora Neale Hurston, honorary members and singers Dionne Warwick and  
32 Chaka Khan, honorary members and actresses Vivica A. Fox and Tatyana Ali, and  
33 honorary member and attorney Anita Hill; and

34

35 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has been empowering  
36 generations of men since its founding at Howard University in Washington,

1 D.C., on January 9, 1914; and

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3 WHEREAS, the founding of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., was based on  
4 a desire to judge each potential member on his own merits rather than his  
5 appearance or family connections and also a desire for the fraternity to  
6 serve as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community, thereby  
7 returning members' newly acquired skills to the communities from which they  
8 had come; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., uphold the  
11 fraternity's ideals of "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity" and  
12 promote brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has five hundred ninety-nine  
15 (599) active chapters; and

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17 WHEREAS, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., have been  
18 instrumental in the establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation  
19 and the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit Union; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., assisted with  
22 the 1920 founding of its sister organization, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,  
23 Incorporated; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., give five  
26 hundred seventy-six thousand (576,000) volunteer hours annually, mentor four  
27 thousand five hundred (4,500) young men annually, give one million two  
28 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in scholarships to students annually,  
29 and have invested eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) in the Black Spend  
30 Initiative; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., have included  
33 scientist George Washington Carver, writers James Weldon Johnson and Dr.  
34 Alain LeRoy Locke, United States Congressman John Lewis, religious and  
35 political leader Al Sharpton, honorary members and actors Harry Belafonte,  
36 Blair Underwood, and Terrence Howard, honorary member and weather anchor Al

1 Roker, football star and television host Emmitt Smith, Olympic gold medalist  
2 Al Joyner, and honorary member and former Governor of Arkansas and former  
3 President of the United States William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton,

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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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9 THAT the House of Representatives recognize and honor Zeta Phi Beta  
10 Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., for their  
11 contributions to their communities, the State of Arkansas, the nation, and  
12 the world.

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
15 provided to the leaders of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta  
16 Sigma Fraternity, Inc., by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.