

Senate Resolution 512

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, James of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Davenport of the 44th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Network in
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Network intends to
4 be an independent full-time sports, "edutainment," and lifestyle network devoted entirely to
5 the four HBCU conferences, their members, and others; and

6 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network is aligned with the White House Initiative on HBCUs and
7 expects to receive written support from President Barrack Obama's administration; and

8 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network will be based in Georgia, with its primary offices in
9 Atlanta, employing Georgia residents and engaging other Georgia based business in network
10 operations; and

11 WHEREAS, the HBCUs, several of which are located in Georgia, shall be equity partners
12 in the network and also benefit financially from annual rights fees; and

13 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network intends to launch in the Fall of 2011, filling a space
14 currently unaddressed by others and becoming the destination channel for alumni, current
15 and prospective students, and sports fans interested in top Black college sports,
16 "edutainment," and lifestyle programming; and

17 WHEREAS, all four sports conferences and ESPN have documented their intention to
18 support the HBCU Network as soon as it has secured a distribution agreement with Comcast
19 Corporation; and

20 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network has already begun to develop non-sports programming with
21 top African American celebrities who have committed to lending the network their presence
22 and performance; and

23 WHEREAS, the HBCU Network expects Comcast Corporation and Cox Communications,
24 Inc., to be early distributors of the network; and

25 WHEREAS, distributors of the network in Georgia and elsewhere shall enjoy the benefits
26 of programming desirable to their subscribers and income from the sale of local advertising
27 to be aired in association with the network; and

28 WHEREAS, support for the HBCU Network has already been expressed by several key
29 constituents in public and private sectors and include the United Negro College Fund,
30 Thurgood Marshall Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus, National Urban League, Magic
31 Johnson Foundation, and a host of civic, political, celebrity, and community leaders.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize and commend the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Network for its
34 efforts to operate a business that will employ Georgia residents, program a network that will
35 focus on and raise awareness of HBCUs, engage other Georgia based businesses in its
36 efforts, provide distributors of programming in Georgia with desirable content, and otherwise
37 enhance the lives and experiences of Georgia residents and businesses.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Historically Black Colleges and
40 Universities Network.