

Senate Resolution 871

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Mangham of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd, Orrock of the 36th and Davenport of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, President and Chief Executive
2 Officer of the Morehouse School of Medicine, for her historic leadership, distinguished
3 career in medicine and research, and extraordinary contributions to advancing health equity;
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, a Georgia native, serves as the
6 sixth President and Chief Executive Officer of the Morehouse School of Medicine and is the
7 first woman in history to lead the freestanding medical institution, bringing to her role a
8 unique combination of excellence in patient care, medical research, organizational
9 management, and public health policy; and

10 WHEREAS, she earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of
11 Technology and her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her
12 residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Emory University School of Medicine and her
13 fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Hutzell Hospital, later receiving
14 honorary degrees from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Rush University;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a renowned infertility specialist and researcher, Dr. Montgomery Rice
17 previously served as Dean and Executive Vice President of the Morehouse School of
18 Medicine beginning in 2011, and she has demonstrated transformational leadership by
19 redesigning complex institutional infrastructures to meet evolving strategic environments and
20 position organizations for sustainable success; and

21 WHEREAS, prior to her tenure at the Morehouse School of Medicine, she held faculty and
22 senior leadership positions at leading academic health centers, most notably serving as the
23 founding director of the Center for Women's Health Research at Meharry Medical College,
24 one of the nation's first research centers devoted to studying diseases that disproportionately
25 impact women of color; and

26 WHEREAS, she is a passionate advocate for health equity, expanding pipeline opportunities
27 for academically diverse learners, diversifying the physician and scientific workforce, and
28 advancing equitable access to quality health care and improved health outcomes; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Montgomery Rice has extended her leadership through service on numerous
30 national and corporate boards and advisory bodies, including her appointment to The
31 President's Committee on the National Medal of Science, service on the Georgia Commission
32 on Women, and membership in the National Academy of Medicine; and

33 WHEREAS, her leadership and impact have been recognized through numerous prestigious
34 honors, including the National Medical Association Scroll of Merit Award, recognition on
35 *STAT's* STATUS List of influential leaders in health and science, the Horatio Alger Award,
36 repeated recognition as one of *Georgia Trend Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Georgians,"
37 the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal, and many other national and statewide distinctions; and

38 WHEREAS, she remains committed to faith, family, and community, sharing her life with
39 her husband, Melvin Rice Jr., and their two children.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 recognize and commend Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice for her groundbreaking leadership
42 at the Morehouse School of Medicine and her enduring contributions to medicine, medical
43 education, research, and the advancement of health equity in Georgia and across the nation.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Valerie
46 Montgomery Rice.