

By: Representative Brooks

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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



Education Consortium; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives welcome Dr. Brendan Kelly as President of the Arkansas State University system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Brendan Kelly by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.