

House Concurrent Resolution No. 105

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

6673H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Missouri states that all persons are created equal and
2 are entitled to equal rights and opportunities under the law in article I, section 2; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the diversity of its citizens has long contributed to the well-being and
5 culture of the state of Missouri; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, University of Missouri - Columbia ("University of Missouri") is designated
8 as the flagship institution of the University of Missouri System, and the University of Missouri
9 has not fulfilled the ideals of this state; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the University of Missouri has a long history of lacking diversity and its
12 campus has a history of racial discrimination; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, today, black students comprise only eight percent of the University of
15 Missouri's student body, a rate half that of black students enrolled in public schools in the state;
16 and

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18 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, a study found that minority students at the University of Missouri
19 experienced harassment based on race or ethnicity at nearly double the national average; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, in the past two decades, multiple initiatives to address the racial issues at
22 the University of Missouri were proposed, including those advocated by Michael Middleton as
23 Deputy Chancellor, but failed to be fully implemented; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, in recent years, the funding dedicated to diversity efforts pales in
26 comparison to total funding received by the University of Missouri, both in dollar amount and
27 in rate of growth; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, during the fall of 2015, racial tension at the University of Missouri focused
30 the attention of the nation and the world on the state of Missouri in a negative light; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, the leadership of the University of Missouri has demonstrated a disregard
33 for certain groups of its students by not swiftly addressing their concerns; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, the leadership of the University of Missouri retained a faculty member who
36 was filmed assaulting a student and encouraging others to do so for three months; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, the concerns of groups unaffiliated with the University of Missouri but who
39 have an interest in the welfare of its students and the institution itself, such as the black caucus
40 of the state legislature, the state legislature as a whole, and alumni of the university, have been
41 ignored by the leadership of the University of Missouri; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, the University of Missouri has not proposed a diversity or racial equity
44 plan; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the leadership of the University of Missouri has failed to undertake the
47 necessary measures to correct the racial disparity and climate of discrimination on its campus;
48 and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the ineffectual management of the University of Missouri's problems
51 resulted in a decrease of applications to the university; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, in light of the turmoil and ineffectual leadership at the University of
54 Missouri and the university's inability to live up to the ideals of the state of Missouri, the
55 University of Missouri should not be a flagship institution or representative of this state; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, Lincoln University is the other land-grant university in the state of
58 Missouri, is the third oldest public university in the state of Missouri, and has a history of racial
59 inclusion; and

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61 **WHEREAS**, Lincoln University was founded in 1866 by Union veterans of the 62nd
62 Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops, formerly known as the First Missouri Regiment of Colored
63 Infantry; and

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65 **WHEREAS**, Lincoln University has receives a mere fraction of funding, attention, and
66 support that the University of Missouri receives; and

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68 **WHEREAS**, in 2007, U.S. News & World Report ranked Lincoln University among the
69 top ten universities in the categories of economic diversity, campus ethnic diversity, and most
70 international students; and

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72 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, U.S. News & World Report ranked Lincoln University as one of
73 the nation's best Historical Black Colleges and Universities; and

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75 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
76 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
77 concurring therein, hereby designate Lincoln University as the flagship institution of the state
78 of Missouri; and

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80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
81 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
82 president of Lincoln University, Kevin D. Rome, and the interim president of the University of
83 Missouri, Mike Middleton.

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