

Senate Resolution 803

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd, James of the 35th, Butler of the 55th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Helene D. Gayle for her outstanding service as President
2 of Spelman College; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Spelman's Presidential Search Committee sought a visionary who embodied
4 Spelman's mission of academic excellence and global leadership, and with a unanimous
5 selection by the Spelman College Board of Trustees, Dr. Helene D. Gayle was chosen to
6 become Spelman's eleventh president; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Gayle began serving as president of Spelman College on July 1, 2022, and
8 was formally recognized as president during her investiture ceremony on April 28, 2023,
9 under the theme "Honoring Our Past - Claiming Our Future"; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Gayle is a pediatrician, trained public health physician, and epidemiologist
11 with expertise in economic development, humanitarian causes, and health issues; and

12 WHEREAS, during her professional career, Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH, has worked in
13 numerous positions, including with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
14 and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for global health issues. She has been the CEO of
15 CARE, a leading international humanitarian organization, and president and CEO of The

16 Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Gayle serves on various public and nonprofit boards, including The
19 Coca-Cola Company; Organon Global Healthcare Company; Palo Alto Networks; The Bill
20 and Melinda Gates Foundation; The Brookings Institution; the Center for Strategic and
21 International Studies; New American Pathways; and the ONE Campaign; and

22 WHEREAS, she is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; National
23 Academy of Medicine; Council on Foreign Relations; American Public Health Association;
24 National Medical Association; and American Academy of Pediatrics; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Gayle was appointed by President Biden to serve on the President's
26 Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States. She also serves on
27 the CDC Advisory Committee to the Director; and

28

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Helene D. Gayle was named one of the "100 Most Powerful Women" by
30 *Forbes* as well as one of the "Power and Influence Top 50" by the *NonProfit Times*; most
31 recently, she was listed among *Atlanta Magazine's* "500 Most Powerful Leaders in 2024."
32 Dr. Gayle has authored numerous articles on global and domestic public health issues,
33 poverty alleviation, gender equality, and wealth inequity; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. Gayle earned a B.A. in psychology from Barnard College, an M.D. from
35 the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University; she is a
36 tenured full professor in the Department of Environmental and Health Sciences at Spelman
37 College; and

38 WHEREAS, capitalizing on her new venture into academia, Dr. Gayle ensures that Spelman
39 will always be a special place where a young Black woman with a dream of making the
40 world better will be nurtured and affirmed, educated wholly, and encouraged and empowered
41 to be and become her best and authentic self; and

42 WHEREAS, at a time when Spelman College is thriving, Dr. Gayle hopes that her example
43 and vision will uphold the college's proud history of excellence, build upon the strengths and
44 accomplishments of her predecessors, increase the school's strategic partnerships, and expand
45 the signature academic programs in the arts, sciences, and technology, thereby ensuring that
46 every Spelman student graduates with a competitive edge and that Spelman's trajectory as
47 a global force continues to grow; and

48 WHEREAS, to support her vision, Dr. Gayle is focused on establishing initiatives that will
49 broaden the reach and impact of the Spelman community locally and globally; and

50 WHEREAS, she is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
51 excellence, integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and it is abundantly fitting and
52 proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable, distinguished, and
53 outstanding humanitarian be appropriately recognized.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
55 recognize and commend Dr. Helene D. Gayle for her effective, unselfish, and dedicated
56 commitment to uplift, educate, and inspire. We congratulate her upon becoming the eleventh
57 President of Spelman College and extend the most sincere best wishes for success, health,
58 and happiness.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
60 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Helene D.
61 Gayle.