



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 93

October 8, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives STUBBS, L. MYERS, ANDERSON, BALLWEG, BOWEN, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, DITTRICH, GRUSZYNSKI, HAYWOOD, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STEFFEN, SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, THIESFELDT, TUSLER, VINING, VRUWINK, WICHGERS, WITKE and ZAMARRIPA, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, BEWLEY, LARSON, RINGHAND, RISSER, WIRCH and KOOYENGA. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** congratulating Madison-native TeKema Balentine on her crowning as
2 Miss Black USA 2019.

3 Whereas, Madison-native and East High School graduate TeKema Balentine
4 competed against women from 49 other states to win the Miss Black USA
5 Scholarship Pageant in August 2019; and

6 Whereas, the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant is the largest and oldest
7 scholarship pageant for black women in the U.S. that has awarded over \$500,000 in
8 scholarship funds since its inception in 1986 and remains the single largest source
9 of scholarship funding for women of color in the U.S.; and

10 Whereas, the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant provides a national stage
11 for participants from across the U.S. to showcase their unique talents and beauty in
12 a competition for scholarships; and

13 Whereas, TeKema Balentine is an upstanding citizen whose strong work ethic
14 and commitment to community are evident in her work as an agency model,
15 caregiver, and coach for Madison East Track and Field, as well as her position sitting

1 on the committee for Providers and Teens Communication for Health (PATCH), a
2 program organized by the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. She is also
3 pursuing a nursing degree at Madison College to which her scholarship funds will
4 be devoted; and

5 Whereas, TeKema Balentine demonstrated exceptional perseverance in
6 qualifying for and ultimately winning the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant,
7 especially given that, as a youth, she did not have access to the resources to
8 participate in pageants; and

9 Whereas, TeKema Balentine is deeply invested in the success of black youth in
10 Madison and across the state through her work coaching for Madison East Track and
11 Field, championing academic opportunity gaps in her contestant platform, and
12 highlighting successful brown people in Madison; and

13 Whereas, TeKema Balentine is revered by a host of community partners who
14 helped make her journey to the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant possible,
15 including donors to the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and others, which is
16 reflective of her upstanding character and commitment to her community; and

17 Whereas, TeKema Balentine will use her crown to advocate for the Heart Truth
18 campaign to raise awareness of heart disease and promote healthy lifestyles; and

19 Whereas, the poise, resilience, compassion, and excellence TeKema Balentine
20 has demonstrated in winning Miss Black USA 2019 has made her state proud; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin Legislature do hereby commend TeKema Balentine on being crowned

1 Miss Black USA 2019 and wish her success in her continued efforts to serve as a role
2 model for youth of color and in her pursuit of a nursing degree from Madison College.

3 (END)