



1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 35

March 18, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives MORRIS-TATUM, YOUNG, WILLIAMS, TURNER, COGGS, FREESE, PLOUFF, REYNOLDS, POCAN, BLACK and J. LEHMAN, cosponsored by Senators GEORGE, BURKE and DARLING. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** establishing a sister-state relationship with the Dakar Region of
2 Senegal.

3 Whereas, the continent of Africa has been recognized as an economic and
4 educational development opportunity for export expansion for the State of Wisconsin
5 and the nation; and

6 Whereas, according to a report of the Governor's Wisconsin International Trade
7 Council Taskforce on How to Create a Global Generation in Wisconsin, the increase
8 of the number of sister-city and sister-state partnerships is integral to Wisconsin
9 in meeting the national average of formal sister-state relationships. To achieve our
10 potential from this type of educational, economic and cultural experience, Wisconsin
11 would need to partner with 11 more international jurisdictions; and

12 Whereas, African American residents of Wisconsin are developing trade,
13 commerce and cultural ties with the Senegalese people; and

14 Whereas, Goree Island, which is located in the Dakar Region of Senegal, was
15 the debarkation point for African slaves bound for American shores, which makes it

1 extremely likely that there are African Americans currently residing in Wisconsin
2 who are descendants of people from that region; and

3 Whereas, a sister-state relationship would benefit both Wisconsin and the
4 Dakar Region of Senegal by facilitating an exchange of information and ideas, by
5 promoting trade, economic development and travel between the 2 regions and by
6 increasing educational exchange programs between them; now, therefore, be it

7 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
8 Wisconsin legislature encourage this state’s executive branch to establish a
9 sister-state relationship between Wisconsin and the Dakar Region of Senegal.

10

(END)