

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Chaney, Dawkins,
Dearing, Frazier, Jackson (11th), Posey,
Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 611

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND CIVIC
2 DEDICATION OF CLAIRE NOWLIN AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE
3 LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Claire Nowlin, ACSW, LCSW, who was recognized for
5 her energy and support of children, youth and families as a
6 licensed social worker in Mississippi, passed away on Wednesday,
7 January 10, 2007; and

8 WHEREAS, Claire was a native and lifelong resident of Rankin
9 County, and a graduate of Millsaps College. She also received her
10 Master's of Social Work degree from Louisiana State University.
11 She achieved the distinction of becoming a member of the Academy
12 of Certified Social Workers through her membership in the National
13 Association of Social Worker, and she was licensed to practice
14 social work at the highest level in Mississippi, the Licensed
15 Certified Social Worker position; and

16 WHEREAS, she began her practice career as a Social Worker at
17 the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in 1972, where she
18 organized the Department of Social Services. In 2002, Claire
19 began work for the Hinds Behavioral Health as a School-Based
20 Therapist for the Jackson Public Schools, where she was employed
21 until her death. She was a truly tireless, cheerful and dedicated
22 social worker on behalf of children, youth and families in
23 Mississippi throughout her career; and

24 WHEREAS, she was currently serving as President of the
25 National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi Chapter (NASW,
26 MS), and had been a member of the Board of Directors of NASW, MS
27 and served as Registration Committee Chairperson for many years.

28 She also served as a member of the Governing Boards of the
29 National Council on Accreditation. She was a member of the Hinds
30 County MAP Team, where she assisted in reviewing child abuse
31 reports in Hinds County, and was a founding member of the MS
32 Association of Child Caring Agencies, through which she also
33 contributed time and talent to the statewide "Looking to the
34 Future Conference," focusing on training professionals to address
35 the service gap for those of late adolescent/early adulthood age
36 who are displaced/homeless, and in need of transitional living,
37 education and social services; and

38 WHEREAS, throughout her career, Claire acted as Field
39 Instructor to many social work students. She also taught as an
40 Adjunct Professor for one semester in the Department of Sociology,
41 Social Work and Family Studies at Mississippi College in Clinton,
42 Mississippi; and

43 WHEREAS, the Council on Accreditation (COA), the National
44 Social Service accrediting body, had the pleasure of partnering
45 with Claire Nowlin since 1987, first as a Peer Reviewer. Then in
46 1996, she became a Team Leader and has conducted well over 20 site
47 visits on their behalf. Claire was later nominated to their
48 decision-making body, the Accreditation Commission, and all agree
49 that Claire was the epitome of southern charm, grace and spirit.
50 Claire was later named Peer Reviewer of the Year in 2001 and
51 awarded the Consuelo Foundation Peer Reviewer Award due to her
52 work and dedication to the accreditation process and our goal to
53 ensure quality services to children, families and individuals.
54 For this distinguished organization, Claire will be missed but
55 will never be forgotten; and

56 WHEREAS, Claire was a very active member of Brandon First
57 United Methodist Church. Her involvements included being a member
58 of the choir, working with the youth, serving as Secretary for the
59 Administrative Board and being a member of the Wesley Sunday
60 School Class; and

61 WHEREAS, Claire was the ultimate advocate, colleague, mentor,
62 professional and friend to all. Claire provided support and
63 advocacy for those vulnerable children and families in need. She
64 also cared for and advocated for the needs of the elderly and
65 infirm. She supported traditional family values in settings where
66 this was not popular, and did not back down in the face of
67 opposition or ridicule. Her faith in her religious belief system
68 upheld her social work values of the worth of the person, and she
69 directed her energy to address all persons' needs even if their
70 values were different from her own. Throughout her career, Claire
71 supported equality and social justice for vulnerable populations;
72 and

73 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
74 inspirational Mississippi citizen, whose professional energy and
75 dedication will be sorely missed by all who knew her:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
77 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
78 we do hereby commend the life and civic dedication of Claire
79 Nowlin and express to her surviving family the sympathy of the
80 Legislature on her passing.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
82 the surviving family of Claire Nowlin, the Board of Directors of
83 the Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social
84 Workers and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.