

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Barnett, Blount,
Dearing, Frazier, Horhn, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Michel,
Norwood, Simmons (12th), Jolly

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 552

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
2 HEALTH SERVICE OF MARY CURRIER, M.D., M.P.H, UPON THE OCCASION OF
3 HER RETIREMENT AS STATE HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
4 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to join the State Board of
6 Health in recognizing and showing appreciation for the
7 distinguished service by Dr. Mary Currier; and

8 WHEREAS, Mary Currier, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer for
9 the Mississippi State Department of Health, retired on October 31,
10 2018, after more than 34 years of service to public health; and

11 WHEREAS, Mary Currier was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan;
12 graduated from Rice University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree;
13 graduated with a Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of
14 Mississippi School of Medicine in 1983; and graduated with a
15 Master of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School
16 of Public Health in 1987; and

17 WHEREAS, Mary Currier began her public health career as a
18 Laboratory Technician in Neurotoxicology Research at the
19 University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1979; and held several



20 teaching positions over the years at the University of Mississippi
21 Medical Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Currier joined the Mississippi State Department
23 of Health in July 1984 as Staff Physician for Public Health
24 District V; was a Medical Consultant from July 1988 to May 1993;
25 served as State Epidemiologist from June 1993 to February 2004 and
26 from July 2007 to January 2010; was the Director of the Office of
27 Epidemiology from March 2002 to February 2004; was Deputy State
28 Health Officer for Medicine and Science from October 2008 to
29 December 2009; was Interim State Health Officer from December 2009
30 to January 2010; and was named State Health Officer on January 13,
31 2010; and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Currier received the "Felix J. Underwood Award"
33 from the Mississippi Public Health Association in 2009 for
34 protecting the health of Mississippians; the "Nathan Davis Award"
35 for Outstanding Government Service from the American Medical
36 Association in 2016; the "Arthur T. McCormack Award" for
37 demonstrating excellence and for making a significant contribution
38 to the knowledge and practice for public health from the
39 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in 2016; and
40 the "Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award" from the University of
41 Mississippi Medical Center in 2017; the MPHA's "Alfio Rausa
42 Medical Care Section Award" demonstrating outstanding dedication
43 to public health service in 2018; and a Lifetime Membership in
44 MPHA in 2018 (one of only four in MPHA history); and



45 WHEREAS, Mary Currier is a member of the American Medical
46 Association, the Mississippi State Medical Association's Central
47 Medical Society, the Association of State and Territorial Health
48 Officials, the American Public Health Association, and is Board
49 Certified in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health; and

50 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Currier led the Mississippi State
51 Department of Health to numerous accomplishments such as the
52 opening of the state-of-the-art Dr. F.E. "Ed" Thompson State
53 Public Health Laboratory; the organizational transition of the
54 agency from nine public health districts to three regions and
55 achieving accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation
56 Board; and the achievement of high childhood immunization rates
57 that have been praised nationally; and

58 WHEREAS, Dr. Currier was instrumental in working through the
59 challenges that the Mississippi State Department of Health has
60 faced such as emerging diseases, including the onset of West Nile
61 virus, Ebola and Zika; as well as the anthrax threat after 9/11;
62 times of severe funding issues; the rise in syphilis in the 1990s;
63 and most recently, obtained funding from the Legislature to combat
64 HIV and tuberculosis; and

65 WHEREAS, Mary Currier is a passionate advocate for decreasing
66 infant mortality in the state, and recently joined with Jackson
67 Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba to launch the city's Safe Sleep
68 Initiative to prevent Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and
69 sleep-related deaths; and



70 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Currier has worked with Mississippi State
71 Board of Health Chairman Lucius M. Lampton, M.D., and Ed D. "Tad"
72 Barham, M.D., to improve the quality of life for all
73 Mississippians; and

74 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute to the
75 professional public health service of a dedicated state official
76 whose enormous civic energy has left a legacy of leadership and
77 dedication to all citizens in Mississippi:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
79 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
80 we do hereby commend the outstanding public health service of Mary
81 Currier, M.D., M.P.H., upon the occasion of her retirement as
82 State Health Officer for the Mississippi State Department of
83 Health.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
85 Dr. Currier and her family, forwarded to the State Board of Health
86 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

