

By: Representative Oliver

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SINCERE GRATITUDE OF
 2 THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO MISSISSIPPI'S FUNERAL SERVICE
 3 PROFESSIONALS AND THE MISSISSIPPI FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
 4 FOR PROVIDING SAFE AND DIGNIFIED END OF LIFE RITES FOR FAMILIES IN
 5 BEREAVEMENT IN THE DARKEST HOURS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

6 WHEREAS, COVID-19 pandemic is a generational event that has
 7 impacted every aspect of our country, and more pertinently, our
 8 state; and

9 WHEREAS, the Mississippi funeral service industry is
 10 comprised of approximately 465 licensed homes, most of which are
 11 family owned and operated, and who provide employment for over
 12 5,000 people, providing valuable jobs in communities across the
 13 state; and

14 WHEREAS, the compounded change of COVID-19 pandemic
 15 restrictions and rising death toll has required Mississippi's
 16 funeral directors to think outside the box about funeral planning
 17 and the myriad options available to families, and the steadfast
 18 dedication of these professionals during these tumultuous times to
 19 provide burial services and to support grieving families has



20 remained consistently stellar, and deserving of laudable
21 recognition; and

22 WHEREAS, with an approximate 30% increase the number of
23 monthly service demands, many funeral homes and funeral service
24 providers have worked significantly extended hours, sacrificing
25 personal time away from family and loved ones, to ensure services
26 and burials were available for all Mississippians; and

27 WHEREAS, industry leaders rapidly innovated to meet the
28 challenges of the pandemic by adjusting their protocols to
29 accommodate their facilities and services, thereby protecting the
30 public by encouraging social distancing and other safety efforts
31 during funerals; and

32 WHEREAS, tantamount to the services provided by frontline
33 medical personnel and law enforcement officials in preserving
34 life, funeral service professionals are categorized as essential
35 business service providers who take every necessary precaution to
36 preserve end of life services in a manner that respectfully and
37 compassionately conveys consolation to and closure for grieving
38 families; and

39 WHEREAS, while the traditional funeral symbols and rituals
40 that accompanied our pre-pandemic way of life have changed, the
41 primary mission and duty of Mississippi's funeral directors has
42 remained grounded in the commitment to help families honor the
43 life of a loved one in a meaningful way; and



44 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge
45 the selfless sacrifices of such remarkable and caring individuals
46 as Mississippi's funeral service professionals:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
49 THEREIN, That we do hereby express the measure of our most sincere
50 and heartfelt gratitude to the members of the funeral service
51 industry, the Mississippi Funeral Directors Association and all
52 those who assisted in providing dignified end of life rites during
53 our nation's darkest hour.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
55 furnished to the Mississippi Funeral Directors Association and to
56 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

