

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE INTREPID LEADERSHIP,  
2 JUDICIOUS ADVOCACY AND SELFLESSLY ZEALOUS COMMITMENT OF THE  
3 HONORABLE SENATOR ANGELA TURNER-FORD PROVIDED DURING HER TERM AS  
4 CHAIRPERSON OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS.

5 WHEREAS, since its informal inception in 1976, the  
6 Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, which evolved as an informal  
7 organization in 1976, operating in a manner consistent with other  
8 states' racial legislative caucuses, before formally establishing  
9 in 1980 with Representative Robert G. Clark, Jr., serving as the  
10 organization's first chairman, has continued to function as a  
11 bastion of hope for the State of Mississippi's African-American  
12 and underserved communities; and

13 WHEREAS, in shouldering the mantle of leadership to navigate  
14 the path of democracy like the forerunners before her, Senator  
15 Angela Turner-Ford, in her capacity as MLBC chairperson, since  
16 having been elected to the post in 2019, has maintained the  
17 tradition of remaining dedicated to the advancement or defeat, as  
18 circumstances respectively necessitate, of legislation impacting  
19 the state's African-American population, leading the charge of



20 advocacy for many of the social and economic issues impacting many  
21 of the smaller and more rural communities throughout the state;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, serving with the same thoughtful analysis, civility  
24 and even-keeled approach to legislating as her predecessor and  
25 late father, the Honorable Senator Bennie Turner, Senator  
26 Turner-Ford has intuitively championed those issues of significant  
27 importance which support public education, increase access to  
28 healthcare, promote unfettered access to voting, advocate for  
29 equitable spending of state funds and implementation of policies  
30 that promote Mississippi's appeal to its next generation of  
31 leaders; and

32 WHEREAS, born in Columbus, Mississippi, on July 2, 1971,  
33 Senator Turner-Ford attended Mississippi State and Howard  
34 Universities before completing her collegiate matriculation at  
35 Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in biology, in  
36 addition to earning a certificate in medical technology from the  
37 University of Alabama at Birmingham, before ultimately making the  
38 decision to pursue the path of legal jurisprudence by attending  
39 the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she earned her  
40 juris doctorate in 2000; and

41 WHEREAS, upon the completion of her law degree and successful  
42 admission to the Mississippi Bar, Senator Turner-Ford joined the  
43 Turner Law Firm as her father's protégé, and subsequently the  
44 torch bearer of his legacy as the successor of his law practice



45 and political voice for the electorate of Senate District 16 after  
46 his passing in 2012, emanating a keen intellect and quiet  
47 disposition, identical to that of her father; and

48 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford initially heeded the call to  
49 public service when appointed to serve as City Prosecutor for the  
50 City of West Point in 2006, and subsequent thereto, as County  
51 Prosecutor for Clay County, becoming the first African American to  
52 be appointed by the board of supervisors to such positions, and  
53 serving simultaneously in both capacities for the city and county  
54 until being administered the oath of her elected office in the  
55 Mississippi Senate in 2013; and

56 WHEREAS, a true guardian of the proletariat, Senator  
57 Turner-Ford's presence in the Mississippi Senate has ushered in a  
58 new era of reimagining the approach to diplomacy that transcends  
59 the constructs of a volatile climate borne out of the difference  
60 in political ideologies and cultural precepts; and

61 WHEREAS, as a result of this intuitive foresight to bridge  
62 the disparity gaps which remain pervasive within Mississippi's  
63 populace, Senator Turner-Ford, after being tapped by the Senate  
64 leadership to serve as the body's Public Property Committee  
65 chairperson, was elected by 52 of her peers to assess the  
66 labyrinth of Mississippi's political landscape as chairperson of  
67 the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus; and

68 WHEREAS, with a courageous spirit, a calmly deft hand and  
69 nurturing heart of compassion, Senator Turner-Ford has piloted the



70 helm of the MLBC with utmost deference to facilitate an inclusive  
71 forum to hear and consider the concerns and recommendations of  
72 each caucus member to better formulate a singular unified approach  
73 to address the issues impacting the constituencies they were  
74 elected to represent; and

75 WHEREAS, a firm believer in the power of effective  
76 communication, Senator Turner-Ford has implemented a consistent  
77 and efficient system listserv correspondence to ensure the  
78 simultaneous conveyance of information to every member, providing  
79 timely notice of strategic plans and agenda items, even in those  
80 critical instances when time is of the essence and an urgent call  
81 to action is incumbent upon the caucus to take an official  
82 position; and

83 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford's approach to effectively  
84 chairing the MLBC has been premised in clearly defined and  
85 consistently applied positions to effectively wield the most  
86 influence to accomplish the organization's five-fold policy agenda  
87 platform, which seeks to effectuate substantive change to improve  
88 the areas of: health care; education; housing and community  
89 investment; criminal justice reform; and unsuppressed voter access  
90 through election reform; and

91 WHEREAS, a servant-leader by innate design, Senator  
92 Turner-Ford, in assuming the responsibilities of office as  
93 chairperson of the MLBC, has endeavored to cultivate a progressive  
94 mentality of service and accountability within the MLBC by



95 advancing initiatives that compel the membership to remain  
96 proactively engaged in grassroots efforts which galvanize the  
97 public's interest to make meaningful investments of time, talent  
98 and resources in furtherance of fulfilling the caucus' mission;  
99 and

100 WHEREAS, even in the face of a myriad of uncertainties  
101 presented by a global pandemic unleashed by COVID-19, which  
102 continues to stifle the quality of life through its residual  
103 health and socio-economic implications, Senator Turner-Ford  
104 remained undeterred in her efforts to ensure that the MLBC  
105 remained at the discussion table, lending its perspective on the  
106 plights of all minority communities of color throughout the state  
107 who were and remain disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and  
108 its various mutations, and advocating for the necessary financial  
109 and tangible resources to mitigate the loss of lives and  
110 livelihoods within those communities; and

111 WHEREAS, affording full disclosure in the vein of complete  
112 transparency, Senator Turner-Ford made certain that every  
113 correspondence submitted to the Speaker of the House, Lieutenant  
114 Governor and Governor regarding its strategic initiatives to  
115 revitalize the public, private and faith-based sectors of the  
116 community, requests for CARES Act and ARPA funding, and  
117 suggestions of collaborative party efforts to afford the state the  
118 ability to emerge from the pandemic mentally, physically and  
119 fiscally sound, was also provided to the members of the public



120 through press releases, news conferences, televised and radio  
121 media outlets, as well as social media platforms; and

122 WHEREAS, a stalwart pillar of excellence within her community  
123 and amongst her elected peers, Senator Turner-Ford's legislative  
124 commitment as a dutifully engaged and well-versed member of the  
125 Senate Committees on Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency,  
126 Appropriations, Judiciary A, Judiciary B, Legislative  
127 Reapportionment, Medicaid, Municipalities, Technology and Veterans  
128 and Military Affairs, does not overshadow, but works in tandem  
129 with her social, civic and professional affiliations as a member  
130 of the Mississippi Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,  
131 Inc., and Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, toward the  
132 fulfillment of living a life of integrity, which as an individual  
133 of moral and spiritual conviction, brings honor to the body of  
134 Christ; and

135 WHEREAS, the service of Senator Turner-Ford would be without  
136 honor but for the continued support, encouragement and love of her  
137 family, who have endured the daunting struggles that accompany the  
138 life of an elected official, and to whom much credit is due for  
139 sacrificing countless hours without her in order to allow her to  
140 fulfill her legislative obligations, including: husband, Robert  
141 Ford, Sr.; and three children, Kennedy, Joshua and Jolen; and

142 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the  
143 indelible legacy of remarkable service and display of intestinal



144 fortitude exhibited by our colleague and friend, Senator Angela  
145 Turner-Ford:

146         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
147 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
148 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and recognize the intrepid  
149 leadership, judicious advocacy and selflessly zealous commitment  
150 of the Honorable Senator Angela Turner-Ford provided during her  
151 term as chairperson of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus,  
152 and express fondest respect and best wishes for continued success  
153 in all her future endeavors.

154         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
155 furnished to Senator Angela Turner-Ford and to the members of the  
156 Capitol Press Corps.

