

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.

