

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Horhn,
Butler (38th), Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS OF LEGENDARY OB/GYN
2 DR. FREDA MCKISSIC BUSH, M.D., OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND
3 EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HER FAMILY,
4 FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND PATIENTS.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi lost a giant in health care this week
6 with the passing of retired OB-GYN, author and anti-abortion
7 advocate Dr. Freda McKissic Bush, M.D., on December 15, 2023; and

8 WHEREAS, "She was an accomplished physician and an even
9 better mother," her son shared. "Her favorite scripture is
10 relevant even during this time...Romans 8:28. Thank you for your
11 love and example of a life well lived"; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Bush graduated from the University of
13 Mississippi Medical School and completed her residency at the
14 University of Tennessee in Memphis. In 1987, she began practicing
15 in Jackson at East Lakeland OB-GYN Associates and was a Clinical
16 Instructor in the Department of OB-GYN and Department of Family
17 Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Dr.
18 Bush went on to become President and CEO of the Medical Institute



19 for Sexual Health in 2012. She was a member of the American
20 Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Bush was an early leading voice for the
22 Mississippi Personhood Amendment for more than a decade ago. That
23 initiative failed but her advocacy did not wane. She took her
24 message across the country, often speaking specifically to African
25 American communities; and

26 WHEREAS, during her 40 years in health care, Bush co-authored
27 two books, *HOOKED, New Science on How Casual Sex Is Affecting Our*
28 *Children* and *Girls Uncovered, New Research on What America's*
29 *Sexual Culture Does to Young Women*, with Dr. Joe S. McIlhaney.
30 She was a contributing writer to *Faith Matters: How African*
31 *American Faith Communities Can Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy*,
32 published by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Dr.
33 Bush also published articles in the *Journal of Medical Regulation*,
34 *Mississippi State Medical Association Journal*, *Christianity Today*,
35 *Charisma Magazine*, and *Christian Living Metro Jackson*; and

36 WHEREAS, Dr. Bush was part of the Mississippi Governor's Blue
37 Ribbon Task Force on Teen Pregnancy Prevention and served as Chair
38 of the Medical Advisory Subcommittee. She also served as a
39 Presidential appointee to the Presidential Advisory Council on
40 HIV/AIDS (PACHA); and

41 WHEREAS, Dr. Bush lent her voice and expertise to the
42 Physician's Resource Council for Focus on the Family and was a
43 Medical Advisor for Heartbeat International and CareNet while



44 serving as Medical Director to the Center for Pregnancy Choices in
45 Metro Jackson; and

46 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Roger Wicker issued this statement on
47 the death of Dr. Bush. "Gayle and I mourn the loss of Dr. Freda
48 Bush, a giant of the pro-life cause whose example inspired
49 doctors, nurses, and citizens across the nation. In her 30 years
50 as an OB-GYN, Dr. Bush worked on the front lines serving women and
51 children, becoming a leading voice for the unborn. She championed
52 the Mississippi Life Equality Act in 2020, which has saved
53 countless lives. Her journey from nurse to doctor to pro-life
54 leader was an American success story. Her impact will live on in
55 the lives of those she inspired and the children who were born
56 because of her tireless efforts. As we mourn her loss, we
57 celebrate her legacy"; and

58 WHEREAS, Dr. Bush was loved and cherished by many, including
59 her parents, James E. McKissic and Rosa Daniels-McKissic; her
60 husband, Lee Bush; four children; 12 grandchildren; three
61 great-grandchildren; and Dr. James Dobson, and Dr. Jim Daly; and

62 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this
63 most public-spirited citizen of Jackson, Mississippi, whose
64 enormous civic energy and advocacy was an example to others of how
65 to live your convictions with courage. She will be missed:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby mourn the loss of legendary OB/GYN Dr. Freda McKissic



69 Bush, M.D., of Jackson, Mississippi, and extend the condolences of
70 the Legislature to her family, friends, colleagues and patients.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 the surviving family of Dr. Bush, forwarded to the CEO of the
73 University of Mississippi School of Medicine and the Director of
74 East Lakeland OB-GYN Associates, and made available to the Capitol
75 Press Corps.

