

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Barnett, Butler
(36th), Butler (38th), Frazier, Hickman,
Horhn, Jackson, Jordan, Norwood, Simmons
(12th), Simmons (13th), Thomas, Blount

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 570

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

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus (MLBC),
6 which evolved as an informal organization in 1976, operating in a
7 manner consistent with other states' racial legislative caucuses,
8 was formally established in 1980, with Representative Robert G.
9 Clark, Jr., serving as the organization's first chairman, has
10 continued to function in support of the State of Mississippi's
11 African American and underserved communities; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Angela Turner-Ford was elected as MLBC
13 Chairperson in 2019, and has maintained the tradition of remaining
14 dedicated to the state's African American population, leading the
15 charge of advocacy for many of the social and economic issues
16 impacting many of the smaller and more rural communities
17 throughout the state; and

18 WHEREAS, serving with the same thoughtful analysis, civility
19 and even-keeled approach to legislating as her predecessor and



20 late father, the Honorable Senator Bennie Turner, Senator
21 Turner-Ford has intuitively championed those issues of significant
22 importance which support public education, increase access to
23 healthcare, promote unfettered access to voting, advocate for
24 equitable spending of state funds and implementation of policies
25 that promote Mississippi's appeal to its next generation of
26 leaders; and

27 WHEREAS, born in Columbus, Mississippi, on July 2, 1971,
28 Senator Turner-Ford attended Mississippi State and Howard
29 Universities before completing her collegiate matriculation at
30 Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in biology, in
31 addition to earning a certificate in medical technology from The
32 University of Alabama at Birmingham, before attending the
33 University of Mississippi School of Law, where she earned her
34 juris doctorate in 2000; and

35 WHEREAS, upon the completion of her law degree and successful
36 admission to The Mississippi Bar, Senator Turner-Ford joined the
37 Turner Law Firm as her father's protégé, and became the torch
38 bearer of his legacy as the successor of his law practice and
39 political voice for the electorate of Senate District 16 after his
40 passing in 2012, emanating a keen intellect and quiet disposition,
41 reminiscent of her father; and

42 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford initially heeded the call to
43 public service when appointed as City Prosecutor for the City of
44 West Point in 2006, and subsequently, as County Prosecutor for



45 Clay County, serving simultaneously in both capacities for the
46 city and county until being administered the oath of her elected
47 office in the Mississippi Senate in 2013. Becoming the first
48 African American to be appointed by the Clay County Board of
49 Supervisors to the position of Board Attorney, Senator Turner-Ford
50 has not taken that position lightly and has tirelessly rendered
51 sound legal advice to the board while traversing the highways and
52 byways of Mississippi when the Legislature is in session to ensure
53 that she is present for offering advice to her board and then
54 returning to the State Legislature to advocate for her
55 constituents; and

56 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford, after being tapped by the
57 Senate leadership to serve as the body's Public Property Committee
58 Chairperson, was elected by 52 of her peers to serve as
59 Chairperson of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus; and

60 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford has piloted the helm of the MLBC
61 with utmost deference to facilitate an inclusive forum to hear and
62 consider the concerns and recommendations of each caucus member to
63 better formulate a singular unified approach to address the issues
64 impacting the constituencies they were elected to represent; and

65 WHEREAS, a firm believer in the power of effective
66 communication, Senator Turner-Ford has implemented a consistent
67 and efficient system listserv correspondence to ensure the
68 simultaneous conveyance of information to every member, providing
69 timely notice of strategic plans and agenda items, even in those



70 critical instances when time is of the essence and an urgent call
71 to action is incumbent upon the caucus to take an official
72 position; and

73 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford's approach to effectively
74 chairing the MLBC has been premised in clearly defined and
75 consistently applied positions to effectively wield the most
76 influence to accomplish the organization's five-fold policy agenda
77 platform, which seeks to effectuate substantive change to improve
78 the areas of: health care; education; housing and community
79 investment; criminal justice reform; and unsuppressed voter access
80 through election reform; and

81 WHEREAS, Senator Turner-Ford, in assuming the
82 responsibilities as Chairperson of the MLBC, has endeavored to
83 cultivate a progressive mentality of service and accountability
84 within the MLBC by advancing initiatives that compel the
85 membership to remain proactively engaged in grassroots efforts
86 which galvanize the public's interest to make meaningful
87 investments of time, talent and resources in furtherance of
88 fulfilling the caucus' mission; and

89 WHEREAS, even in the face of a myriad of uncertainties
90 presented by a global pandemic unleashed by COVID-19, which
91 continues to stifle the quality of life through its residual
92 health and socioeconomic implications, Senator Turner-Ford
93 remained undeterred in her efforts to ensure that the MLBC
94 remained at the discussion table, lending its perspective on the



95 plights of all minority communities of color throughout the state
96 who were and remain disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and
97 its various mutations, and advocating for the necessary financial
98 and tangible resources to mitigate the loss of lives and
99 livelihoods within those communities; and

100 WHEREAS, affording full disclosure in the vein of complete
101 transparency, Senator Turner-Ford made certain that every
102 correspondence submitted to the Speaker of the House, Lieutenant
103 Governor and Governor regarding its strategic initiatives to
104 revitalize the public, private and faith-based sectors of the
105 community, requests for CARES Act and ARPA funding, and
106 suggestions of collaborative party efforts to afford the state the
107 ability to emerge from the pandemic mentally, physically and
108 fiscally sound, was also provided to the members of the public
109 through press releases, news conferences, televised and radio
110 media outlets, as well as social media platforms; and

111 WHEREAS, a pillar of excellence within her community and
112 among her elected peers, Senator Turner-Ford's legislative
113 commitment as a dutifully engaged and well-versed member of the
114 Senate Committees on Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency,
115 Appropriations, Judiciary A, Judiciary B, Legislative
116 Reapportionment, Medicaid, Municipalities, Technology and Veterans
117 and Military Affairs, does not overshadow, but works in tandem
118 with, her social, civic and professional affiliations as a member



119 of the Mississippi Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
120 Inc., and Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

121 WHEREAS, the service of Senator Turner-Ford has been
122 supported by the encouragement and love of her family, to whom
123 much credit is due for sacrificing countless hours without her in
124 order to allow her to fulfill her legislative obligations,
125 including her mother, Edna Turner; sisters, Carolyn Kareem and
126 Lisa Turner; and children, Kennedy, Joshua and Jelen; and

127 WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Legislature to honor the
128 indelible legacy of remarkable service exhibited by our colleague
129 and friend, Senator Angela Turner-Ford:

130 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
131 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
132 we do hereby commend and recognize the leadership, advocacy and
133 commitment that the Honorable Senator Angela Turner-Ford provided
134 during her term as Chairperson of the Mississippi Legislative
135 Black Caucus (MLBC), and express fondest respect and best wishes
136 for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

137 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to
138 Senator Angela Turner-Ford, the Mississippi Legislative Black
139 Caucus and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

