

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Horhn, Frazier,  
Simmons (12th), Branning

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE  
2 LEGISLATURE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MARGARETT  
3 LOUISE ALLEN-BINGHAM WHO WAS THE FIRST FEMALE SUPERINTENDENT OF A  
4 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND LONGTIME RESPECTED LEADER  
5 IN THE FIELD OF CORRECTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH.

6 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of  
7 longtime Mississippi Correctional and Mental Health Administrator  
8 Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham on November 2, 2023; and

9 WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham had an outstanding career of  
10 leadership in the Mississippi Department of Corrections and was a  
11 longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the Center for  
12 Independent Learning Inc/The Friendship Connection which is a  
13 Central Mississippi Recovery Center for Women located in Jackson,  
14 Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham began her professional career in  
16 1971 in Washington, D.C., as a Women's Half-way House Counselor.  
17 She served five years in this position before returning to her  
18 home state of Mississippi; and



19           WHEREAS, she began her distinguished career with the  
20 Mississippi Department of Correction in 1976, making strides for  
21 over 35 years with MDOC. She accomplished many firsts with MDOC  
22 in the State of Mississippi. Margaret was the first Woman  
23 Lieutenant at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman,  
24 Mississippi, the first Mississippi Department of Corrections  
25 Deputy Warden at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in  
26 Rankin County, Mississippi, and on January 1, 2005, she made  
27 Mississippi history by becoming the First Woman Superintendent of  
28 a Correctional Facility in the State of Mississippi; and

29           WHEREAS, Margaret joined the Board of Directors of the  
30 Center for Independent Learning in 2000 and immediately accepted  
31 assignments on committees and projects in order to provide care  
32 and services to people who seek to build bridges to "incarcerated  
33 women." She was a leader who enabled a reconciliation with the  
34 "free world" for women who are defined poorly by a legal system  
35 and are often bound by the disease of alcohol and drug addiction;  
36 and

37           WHEREAS, Margaret provided education, advocacy, and direct  
38 services which promote self-esteem, dignity, integrity,  
39 responsibility, and trusting, healthy relationships. She also  
40 loved spending time with her family, who meant everything to her.  
41 She was a beacon of light to all and an inspiration in every life  
42 she impacted; and



43           WHEREAS, Margaret accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at  
44 an early age at Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located in  
45 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and was a faithful member of Emmanuel  
46 Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Her dedication  
47 demonstrated the words of the old spiritual, *"If I can Help  
48 Somebody...then my living shall not be in vain"*; and

49           WHEREAS, she leaves to cherish her memory and to carry on her  
50 notable legacy: daughter, Millicent Michelle Bingham;  
51 grandchildren, Devin Bingham, Ja'Niel Bingham and Brayden Bingham;  
52 brothers, Ernest Allen (Eve) and Louis Allen; special cousins,  
53 Imogene Burton and special nephew, Vincent Parker. The children  
54 of her late brothers, Roy Allen, Carl Allen and Donald Allen and a  
55 host of grandnieces and nephews, cousins, extended family and the  
56 Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church Family; and

57           WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham leaves a great legacy and served  
58 an historic role within the Department of Corrections, the  
59 Department of Mental Health and the State of Mississippi.  
60 Margaret's love, commitment and lasting impact on her family and  
61 the State of Mississippi will be missed:

62           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
64 we do hereby extend the deepest sympathy of the Legislature to the  
65 surviving family and friends of Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham who  
66 was the first female Superintendent of a correctional facility in  
67 Mississippi and longtime respected leader in the field of



68 correctional and mental health and give our thanks for sharing  
69 Margaret with us and with the State of Mississippi.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
71 the family of Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham, forwarded to Robert  
72 Davidson, President of the Board of Directors of the Center for  
73 Independent Learning/the Friendship Connection and be made  
74 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

