

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

BY SENATOR BARROW

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller upon her accomplishments.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller on her accomplishments
3 in educating, raising awareness, eliminating stigma, motivating, mobilizing, and
4 encouraging acceptance of all people, using drama and theatre to reach the
5 faith-based community and beyond, and starting a conversation around inclusion.

6 WHEREAS, Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller has lifted the term "southern
7 hospitality" to an entirely new level as she is the founder and CEO of Aspirations, a
8 non-profit faith-based community service organization, founder of Positive Diva and
9 Positive Dude Productions, founder-CEO of LE' Joyce Consultants, INC. and founder and
10 Servant of the Travelers of Christ Evangelistic Ministry; and

11 WHEREAS, she dedicates herself to educating, supporting and inspiring others living
12 with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illness throughout the world; and

13 WHEREAS, she has been an ordained minister for forty-seven years, has a
14 Theological Doctorate of Divinity, Bachelors of Science in Counseling, she is a Certified
15 Paralegal, writer, and artist and is the proud grandmother of thirteen grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, her areas of studies are Psychology, Theology, Art, and Law and
17 attended Pearl River College, Poplarville, Mississippi; William Carey College, Gulfport,
18 Mississippi; Belle Grove Theological Seminary, Denver, Colorado; Southern University and

1 Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

2 WHEREAS, the most exciting moment of her adult life was running for Miss Bayou
3 Classic at Southern University, when she was fifty-one years of age; and making the Special
4 Edition of Real Health's, "*Thirty-Five People In The World To Watch in 2006*" along with
5 then Senator Barrack Obama; and

6 WHEREAS, over the years, Archbishop Joyce has accrued an extensive list of
7 certifications, recognitions, and awards for her extensive work in community awareness and
8 development in the HIV/AIDS arena; she is a leader and advocate who presented a "Living
9 Quilt" with names of individuals living with HIV/AIDS from across the country during a
10 Congressional Black Caucus hearing on Ryan White in Washington, D.C.; she received
11 proclamations from Mayor President Melvin "Kip" Holden for her contribution to the fight
12 against HIV/AIDS after hosting the first National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness
13 Day in March 2006 and from Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana for hosting
14 the first Hepatitis Awareness Day in May 2006; and

15 WHEREAS, in March 2009, she was given a proclamation for the Second Annual
16 Teen Violence Prevention and Self Esteem Building Conference; in March 2010, she
17 received a Proclamation for Governor Bobby Jindal for the third annual, "Teen Violence
18 Prevention Conference" making it a statewide event; and most recently, Archbishop Dr.
19 Joyce Turner Keller was profiled in the July-August issue of "Positive Aware Magazine" in
20 Chicago, Illinois, and The Body.com Magazine in October 2010, was nominated for
21 L'OREAL Paris Woman of the Year Award, both 2008 and 2009; she appears in a public
22 service announcement with the legendary, Miss Nancy Wilson; recently, she was awarded
23 the Campaign 2 End AIDS "Best Leader Award" for her service as the former national
24 co-chair and the State Chair for Louisiana.; and she was honored at the five year anniversary
25 in Washington, D.C. by the Campaign 2 End AIDS; and

26 WHEREAS, Archbishop/Dr. Turner Keller is a certified HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C
27 community educator, a global advocate and a motivational speaker; she is a member of The
28 National Minority Aids Council, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women of the Greater
29 Baton Rouge Area, National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council, Southern AIDS Coalition,
30 Homeless Alliance Coalition, and Women in the NAACP; she is a former member of

1 Campaign 2 End AIDS and the League of Women Voters; she is the board member emeritus
2 of AAA+, a member of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, and on the membership
3 committee; and

4 WHEREAS, in March 2011 Dr. Turner Keller and Aspirations were honored on the
5 floor of the United States Congress by Congressman William "Bill" Cassidy" from the 6th
6 District of Louisiana, receiving a Certificate of Recognition and Commemoration,"; on July
7 28, 2011, Dr. Turner Keller was invited to the White House to receive a proclamation for
8 Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day, given by President Barack Obama; in August, 2011, Dr.
9 Turner Keller was profiled in "2 the Advocate", highlighting her commitment, service, and
10 advocacy to the HIV/AIDS and hepatitis community, addressing health disparities, stigma
11 and other chronic illnesses; and

12 WHEREAS, on October 13, 2011 Dr. Turner Keller was honored by the Children's
13 Defense Fund in New Orleans at Xavier University and, most recently, made the news in the
14 fight to stop the closing of state hospitals in Louisiana and the fight to end homelessness; and

15 WHEREAS, currently, she is partnered with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and
16 Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge taking the message of HIV to public schools,
17 Councils on Aging, the Latino Community, and hosting house parties, "Straight Talk At The
18 Kitchen Table" monthly meetings; she has taken to stage doing stand-up, addressing the lack
19 of conversation in church regarding HIV.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
21 does hereby commend and congratulate Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller on her
22 accomplishments in educating, raising awareness, eliminating stigma, motivating,
23 mobilizing, and encouraging acceptance of all people, using drama and theatre to reach the
24 faith-based and community, and starting a conversation around inclusion.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
26 Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller.

