

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, she has been an ordained minister for forty-seven years, has a Theological Doctorate of Divinity, Bachelor of Science in Counseling, she is a certified paralegal, writer, and artist and is the proud grandmother of thirteen grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, her areas of study are Psychology, Theology, Art, and Law and she attended Pearl River College, Poplarville, Mississippi; William Carey College, Gulfport, Mississippi; Belle Grove Theological Seminary, Denver, Colorado; Southern University and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

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

WHEREAS, over the years, Archbishop Joyce has accrued an extensive list of certifications, recognitions, and awards for her extensive work in community awareness and development in the HIV/AIDS arena; she is a leader and advocate who presented a "Living Quilt" with names of individuals living with HIV/AIDS from across the country during a Congressional Black Caucus hearing on Ryan White in Washington, D.C.; she received

proclamations from Mayor President Melvin "Kip" Holden for her contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS after hosting the first National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in March 2006 and from Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana for hosting the first Hepatitis Awareness Day in May 2006; and

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

WHEREAS, Archbishop/Dr. Joyce Turner Keller is a certified HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C community educator, a global advocate and a motivational speaker; she is a member of The National Minority AIDS Council, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women of the Greater Baton Rouge Area, National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council, Southern AIDS Coalition, Homeless Alliance Coalition, and Women in the NAACP; she is a former member of Campaign 2 End AIDS and the League of Women Voters; she is the board member emeritus of AAA+, a member of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, and on the membership committee; and

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

and other chronic illnesses; and

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE