

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 2185

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Senfronia Thompson has dedicated  
2 herself wholeheartedly to the betterment of Texas during a half  
3 century of distinguished service in the Texas House of  
4 Representatives; and

5           WHEREAS, The dean of the Texas House, "Ms. T" is the  
6 longest-serving woman and longest-serving Black lawmaker in the  
7 legislature; she was first elected in 1972, when women were not even  
8 allowed to open a credit card in their own name; since then, she has  
9 been at the forefront of historic change, working tirelessly in  
10 behalf of justice, equality, and opportunity for all; and

11           WHEREAS, Representative Thompson was among the first to take  
12 on the scourge of human trafficking, and her efforts have made Texas  
13 a leader in anti-trafficking legislation; known for her tenacity  
14 and ability to work across the aisle, she doggedly built a  
15 broad-based coalition to finally win passage of the James Byrd Jr.  
16 Hate Crimes Act; her myriad accomplishments also include the Sexual  
17 Assault Program Fund, the state's first and only alimony law, laws  
18 creating drug courts, and legislation providing insurance coverage  
19 for anti-cancer oral medication, 3D mammograms, HPV and cervical  
20 cancer screening, and contraceptives; in 2019, her 11th-hour bill  
21 amendment gave Texas one of the nation's toughest prescription drug  
22 price transparency laws; and

23           WHEREAS, In notable efforts to benefit seniors,  
24 Representative Thompson secured passage of legislation allowing

1 Medicaid nursing home residents to keep more of their retirement  
2 and social security money for personal use, as well as a bill  
3 permitting homeowners over the age of 65 to make quarterly property  
4 tax payments without penalty; she authored the Chief Justice Jack  
5 Pope Act, which increased funding for legal aid to low-income  
6 Texans with civil cases, as well as the Michael Morton Act, which  
7 instituted important criminal justice reforms; among many other  
8 measures to defend the vulnerable, she secured passage of  
9 legislation banning racial profiling, strengthening protective  
10 orders, shielding unpaid interns from sexual harassment, and  
11 increasing sex offender penalties; and

12         WHEREAS, Representative Thompson has shared her expertise as  
13 a member and chair of numerous committees; she currently chairs the  
14 Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety, and she is a member of  
15 the Committees on Licensing and Administrative Procedures,  
16 Redistricting, and State Affairs; and

17         WHEREAS, Inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in  
18 2014, Representative Thompson has been named one of the Top Ten Best  
19 Legislators by *Texas Monthly*, and she is the sole recipient of the  
20 Rosa Parks Award from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus; a  
21 graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of law, she also holds a master  
22 of law degree in international law from the University of Houston, a  
23 master of education degree from Prairie View A&M University, and a  
24 bachelor's degree in biology from Texas Southern University;  
25 moreover, she is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

26         WHEREAS, Senfronia Thompson has blazed a remarkable path over  
27 the course of 26 terms in the Texas House, and her vision,

1 leadership, and unyielding commitment to social justice are a  
2 tremendous inspiration to all; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby honor State Representative Senfronia Thompson  
5 for 50 years of service in the Texas House and extend to her sincere  
6 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for Representative Thompson as an expression of high  
9 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.