

By: Miles

H.R. No. 3525

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than a quarter-century, the Honorable
2 Sylvester Turner has served his fellow Texans with enormous skill
3 and dedication as the state representative for House District 139
4 in Harris County; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Turner was first elected in 1988, and
6 over the course of his noteworthy tenure, he has worked tirelessly
7 to improve the lives of all citizens and to promote reform in
8 education, health care, human services, consumer rights, and
9 juvenile justice; along the way, he has earned renown for his
10 ability to build consensus and for his leadership in numerous
11 roles, including speaker pro tempore, an office he held from 2003 to
12 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, A longtime member of the House State Affairs
14 Committee, Representative Turner served for four terms as its vice
15 chair; he currently serves as vice chair of the House
16 Appropriations Committee and as chair of its Subcommittee on
17 Articles I, IV, and V, and he is a member of the Legislative Budget
18 Board; additionally, he chairs both the Texas Legislative Black
19 Caucus and the Greater Houston Area Legislative Delegation; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Turner has lent his expertise to a
21 host of committees related to fiscal matters, and he chaired the
22 House Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee and the House
23 Select Committee on Hurricane Ike Storm Devastation to the Texas
24 Gulf Coast; in addition, he has served on the House Calendars

1 Committee and the House Select Committee on Electric Generation
2 Capacity and Environmental Effects, among others; and

3 WHEREAS, Especially dedicated to the well-being of those who
4 are most vulnerable, Representative Turner authored the bill that
5 added 127,000 previously uninsured children to the Texas Children's
6 Health Insurance Program; he was named one of the "13 Big Voices for
7 Little Texans in 2013" by the Court Appointed Special Advocates
8 Association, and that same year, he was presented with the
9 Humanitarian Award at the national conference of Kappa Alpha Psi
10 Fraternity; moreover, he has been lauded by *Texas Monthly* magazine
11 and other publications and by such organizations as the NAACP, the
12 Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Classroom Teachers
13 Association, Common Cause of Texas, the Texas Pediatric Society,
14 and the Texas Police Chiefs Association; and

15 WHEREAS, This proud native son of the Bayou City was
16 instrumental in the creation of the Houston Astros MLB Urban Youth
17 Baseball Academy, which provides free baseball and softball
18 instruction to youngsters at Sylvester Turner Park; he coordinates
19 the annual Acres Homes Juneteenth Parade, as well as a number of
20 other local events, and he has given generously of his time and
21 talents to the United Negro College Fund, the Acres Homes Citizens
22 Chamber of Commerce, and the Coalition for School Improvement; and

23 WHEREAS, With deep roots in the Houston community, Sylvester
24 Turner became speaker of the student senate at the University of
25 Houston, and he went on to graduate from Harvard Law School; he
26 joined Fulbright and Jaworski before establishing his own firm,
27 Barnes and Turner, in 1983; while in private practice, he has also

1 served as an adjunct professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of
2 Law and as a lecturer for the South Texas College of Law and the
3 University of Houston Law School continuing legal education
4 program; he is a member of Brookhollow Baptist Church, and in all
5 his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of his daughter,
6 Ashley Paige Turner; and

7 WHEREAS, Combining both idealism and pragmatism,
8 Representative Turner has gained a well-deserved reputation as "the
9 conscience of the house," serving as a passionate and eloquent
10 voice for Texans from all walks of life, and his accomplishments
11 will continue to benefit countless citizens in the years to come;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Sylvester Turner for his
15 exemplary public service and extend to him sincere best wishes for
16 continued success and happiness; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Representative Turner as an expression of high regard
19 by the Texas House of Representatives.