

House Resolution 988

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Beverly of the 143rd, and Hugley of the 141st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending "Able" Mable Thomas; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, "Able" Mable Thomas is a former member of the Georgia House of
3 Representatives and was the youngest member when she first won election; and
- 4 WHEREAS, her political career began when she was chosen as a presidential delegate for
5 candidate Jesse Jackson at the 1984 Democratic National Convention; and
- 6 WHEREAS, in that same year, she won a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives,
7 where she served four terms; in 1997, she ran for and won a seat on the Atlanta City Council;
8 in 2000, she returned to the House where she served for six years; and in 2010, she returned
9 to the House and served until 2020; and
- 10 WHEREAS, she is heavily involved with revitalization efforts in The Bluff neighborhoods
11 on Atlanta's westside; and
- 12 WHEREAS, she is known globally as a founding mother of the reproductive justice
13 movement; and

14 WHEREAS, the Black women who were the founding mothers of the reproductive justice
15 movement, involved in coining the term, and laying the initial framework were: "Able"
16 Mable Thomas, Toni M. Bond Leonard, Loretta Ross, Reverend Alma Crawford, Evelyn S.
17 Field, Terri James, Bisola Marignay, Cassandra McConnell, Cynthia Newbille, Elizabeth
18 Terry, Winnette P. Willis, and Kim Youngblood; and

19 WHEREAS, she made history when \$21 million was included in the state budget for
20 postpartum Medicaid coverage for one year with direct support from former Representative
21 Renitta Shannon; and

22 WHEREAS, she passed groundbreaking legislation to allow mammograms, prostate exams,
23 and pap smears to be covered as medical expenses; and

24 WHEREAS, she has received awards from many national organizations, including the Joe
25 Manns Black Wall Street Award in May, 2023, and has had awards named after her; and

26 WHEREAS, much of her legacy is carried out through the nonprofit organization named
27 Sistersong whose mission is to strengthen and amplify the collective voices of women of
28 color to achieve reproductive justice by eradicating reproductive oppression and securing
29 human rights.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize and commend "Able" Mable Thomas and thank her for
32 her efforts of behalf of her community and state.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
35 "Able" Mable Thomas.