

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection, Members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature, family and friends. My name is Ronald W. Belfon and with my wife Angela, we are grateful to be part of Mrs. Turnbull's extended family. The Old Testament Book of Proverbs starting at verse ten asks and simultaneously declares:

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” And then Proverbs goes on for 20 more verses in a way which easily brings our Bernice Alma Turnbull to mind. The verses speak of a woman who is strong and honorable, who reaches out to the poor and supplies the needs of many, who speaks words of wisdom and of kindness, who looks after her own household and is industrious. A woman who fears the Lord and should be praised.

Mrs. Turnbull's works speak for themselves. Yes, she should be praised. And it is my honor and my privilege to appear before you this afternoon, to offer testimony in support of Bill No. 35-0208.

Our community knows that your Bill No. 35-0208 is timely. Mrs. Turnbull is here with us. Driving around delivering necessities and niceties to many in our community. She does not know how not to help. She is known more for her good deeds than for her name. Likewise, when her government calls upon her to serve, she is a model public servant. Not just another hard worker – but a smart worker, a model worker, and a worker who leads by example. In government, we knew which Bernice Turnbull we needed. At various stages of her career and in various positions in her field, Bernice Alma Turnbull excelled.

Yet, in these beautiful Virgin Islands, it is not our work which makes us who we are. Rather, it is how we work and for whom we work, and the love and hospitality which we don't keep to ourselves. Bernice Turnbull cannot keep her talent, her wisdom, her time, and her treasure to herself. She shares these things readily and easily with so many, every day, with neither fatigue nor complaint, such that we are left to feel as if we are not doing enough. And that's a good thing. Her service reminds us that we can all do a little more for others, and in that way, enrich our own lives –feel good about our day.

And no matter what she does, that hallmark smile of hers give us all reassurance that she will succeed, that we are going to be okay, and she will do all that she can to make it so.

So, for whom does she work? Ask the folks at Wesleyan Methodist and other places of worship in St. Thomas, St. John and Tortola where she gives freely of herself to support and encourage multitudes, especially, young and eager children. It is her mission to help. One at a time. With a smile. Setting the example for others. And we love her for it.

My wife Angela and I are always grateful for our friendship with Bernice Alma Turnbull and we thank you, the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature, for recognizing her as an example, and by your actions, shining the light on the life of our friend Bernice Alma Turnbull, with this Bill.

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