

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Bill # 35-0208
TO HONOR BERNICE A. TURNBULL

January 23, 2024

Introduction

Good afternoon, Honorable, Senator Carla Joseph, members of the 35th Legislature and the listening audience. My Name is Sedonie Halbert, and I am grateful for this opportunity to offer support for Mrs. Bernice Turnbull whom I have known personally and professionally for more than 20 years.

Personal / Professional Connection

My first affiliation with Mrs. Benice Turnbull was at Church where she held several leadership positions and performed her duties with passion and to the letter of the law. My professional relationship began when we both served as commissioners, Mrs. Turnbull as Commissioner of the Department of Finance, and my position as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. This was an entirely unique experience. She was now in control of the purse string of the Government of the Virgin Islands. If I thought she was passionate about her church duties, there was no comparison in this new role. There were times when the Business Administrator and I would plead our case of financial woes to Commissioner Turnbull, and she would respectfully let us know her position. We would have to deal with the situation as best we could. While I thought she was hard, I respected her forthrightness. As Commissioner of Finance, Mrs. Turnbull was always fair in the decision-making process and always exercised good judgment.

Key Achievements and Qualities

One of Mrs. Turnbull's outstanding achievements is her leadership of an organization, the Benevolent Society, designed to provide financial aid and death benefits for participating members of the Methodist Church. This Organization was created by visionaries in the 1930's. As she continues the mission, the work is growing and progressing under her skillful management and guidance. Mrs. Turnbull is meticulous about the finances of the organization, safeguarding members' dues, and contributions to the Society,

Mrs. Turnbull's noticeable community mindedness was evident in her dedicated support and on-going donations to the children and adolescents of St. Thomas Health Care Management, a facility designed to meet their behavioral needs. She continues to demonstrate a desire to address the needs of youth and elderly persons through her role as a Sunday school teacher, reaching out to persons who are sick and shut in and by serving on various organizations and committees.

I end my presentation with this quote by John Wesley, founder of Methodism which I believe is befitting of Mrs. Turnbull personal and professional attributes.

*“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can”
John Wesley*

Sedonie Halbert
Presenter