

1 SJR111
2 219149-1
3 By Senators Reed, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Butler,
4 Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures,
5 Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts, Scofield, Sessions,
7 Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver,
8 Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 06-APR-22

COMMENDING SENATOR MALIKA SANDERS-FORTIER ON HER
RETIREMENT AND YEARS OF SERVICE.

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 2019-2022
quadrennium of the Legislature of Alabama, Senator Malika
Sanders-Fortier will conclude her tenure in the Alabama
Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Sanders-Fortier was born in
Birmingham, Alabama, and was reared in Selma, Alabama; after
graduating from Spelman College with a degree in Psychology
and earning her Juris Doctor from the Birmingham School of
Law, she returned to Selma and joined the law firm of
Chestnut, Sanders, and Sanders, L.L.C., of which she is now
managing partner; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Hank Sanders, a state
senator for 35 years, and Faya Rose Toure', a renowned civil
rights activist, Senator Sanders-Fortier was born into a
family highly committed to community, equality, and justice;
she thus views her position in public office as the
culmination of a decades-long and, truly, centuries-long path

1 towards social progress which has been trod by generations
2 before her, and also views her public office as her
3 opportunity to minister to others; and

4 WHEREAS, indeed, Senator Sanders-Fortier, Alabama's
5 first woman senator from the Black Belt, believes that her
6 election was the completion of a journey started by Ms. Amelia
7 Boynton Robinson, who, in addition to being Senator
8 Sanders-Fortier's mentor, once ran for elected office herself
9 immediately after the 1965 passage of the Civil Rights Act, as
10 featured in the movie, "Selma"; and

11 WHEREAS, among all these accomplishments and
12 sacrifices, Senator Sanders-Fortier is a wife to her husband
13 and law school classmate, Franklin B. Fortier, and a devoted
14 mother to her lovely children: Askhari, Azali, Ayiraa,
15 Ayyanna, Asa, and Asha; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Sanders-Fortier's efforts to
17 improve this world for future generations extend beyond her
18 family; she serves with the 21st Century Youth Leadership
19 Movement, purposed to develop young leaders to continue the
20 legacy of the Civil Rights Movement so that they may pick the
21 "promised fruit yet unharvested that another generation must
22 harvest"; Senator Sanders-Fortier is herself a product of the
23 movement, as she attended the group's summer camps in her
24 youth, and subsequently became its executive director; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Sanders-Fortier lives her life by a
26 few mottos, including: "Fortiers finish", as she tells her
27 children is their family motto; "fighting for the least of

1 these," the motto of her law firm; and she has spent her life
2 fighting to build what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned
3 as "the enlightened Beloved Community"; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Sanders-Fortier has been recognized
5 for her efforts in publications such as the New York Times,
6 Utne, Essence, and as a guest on the Tom Joyner Morning Show;
7 however, this body prays that the accolades of this resolution
8 help convey to her the appreciation and respect her colleagues
9 hold for her; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Senator Malika Sanders-Fortier
12 is hereby commended for her service to the State of Alabama
13 and its peoples, both within and without the State House, and
14 that a copy of this resolution be presented to her as a token
15 of our immense esteem and deep gratitude.