

BIO FOR THE HONORABLE GILDA COBB-HUNTER

Widely respected on both sides of the aisle, the Honorable Gilda Cobb-Hunter is the longest serving Representative in the South Carolina General Assembly and has been dubbed as “the conscience of the House.”

Her historic public service portfolio includes becoming the first African American woman elected to statewide office, where she still serves today representing Orangeburg County; the only freshman legislator appointed to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee where she is now the ranking member and 1st Vice Chairwoman; and the first person of color elected to lead a legislative caucus as former House Minority Leader. She is also a member of the Joint Bond Review Committee.

Her political leadership extends nationally as former President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; National Committeewoman to the Democratic National Committee; member of the National Conference of State Legislatures Executive Committee; and the first woman color Chair of the Southern Regional Caucus.

Rep. Cobb-Hunter’s longstanding commitment to community service and advocacy is reflected in her active participation on numerous boards and commissions, including the Community Development Advisory Committee for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond; Center for Women Policy Studies; Grassroots Leadership; Planned Parenthood of South Carolina; South Carolina Fair Share; South Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition; and South Carolina SAFEKIDS.

She currently serves as Social Work Administrator & Chief Executive Officer of CASA/Family Systems, a private, not-for-profit organization serving Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg counties whose primary focus is providing prevention, advocacy, and intervention to individuals and families who have been affected by sexual assault, family violence, and/or child abuse and neglect. She is a former teacher and caseworker for the Orangeburg Department of Social Services.

She is a director at The ReGenesis Institute which helps deprived communities access federal dollars to assist in restructuring.

Representative Cobb-Hunter holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Afro-American History from Florida A&M University and a Master of Arts degree in American-History from Florida State University.

She is a native of Gifford, Florida and is proudly married to Dr. Terry K. Hunter, Executive Director of the Fine Arts Cultural Enrichment Teaching Studios.