

Bio of Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (SC)

South Carolina State Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter is the immediate Past President (2019 – 2020) of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), the nation’s premier organization serving the interests of over 700 African American State Legislators from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, representing more than 60 million Americans. She brings decades of political leadership and management experience to NBCSL.

Representative Cobb-Hunter also represents South Carolina as the *National Committeewoman* to the *Democratic National Committee (DNC)*, where she served as a member of the *DNC’s Executive Committee* and as *Chair of the DNC’s Southern Regional Caucus*, the first woman of color ever elected to that position.

Her career of public service began 27 years ago when she was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives where she still serves today representing Orangeburg County. In 1992, she was the first African American woman elected to a statewide office and the only first term legislator ever appointed to the powerful *House Ways and Means Committee* where she is now the **ranking member** and 1st Vice Chairwoman.

In 1997, Representative Cobb-Hunter was the first person of color to lead a legislative caucus when she was elected *House Minority Leader*. During her legislative career, she has been honored for her legislative leadership and recognized as Legislator of the Year by numerous organizations, in addition to being widely respected on both sides of the aisle. Cobb-Hunter has been dubbed “the conscience of the South Carolina House” and led the historic effort as Vice-Chair of the African American History Monument Commission to build the first monument to African Americans on the grounds of any state capitol.

Her longstanding commitment to community service 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.*

Representative Cobb-Hunter is the **Chief Executive Officer** of **CASA/Family Systems**, a family violence agency serving Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties and has worked on a variety of progressive issues at the national, regional and state level to make communities a better place for working families to live.

Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter is a native of Gifford, Florida, holds a B.S. degree in Afro-American History from **Florida A&M University**, an M.A. degree in American-History from **Florida State University**, and is a **Licensed Master Social Worker**. She received an honorary **Doctorate in Humane Letters** from the **Medical University of South Carolina** and the **College of Charleston**. In 2009, she received the highly coveted **David Wilkins Legislative Leadership Award** from the **Riley Institute at Furman University** and in 2019, Representative Cobb-Hunter was conferred **an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from Francis Marion University.**

She is married to Dr. Terry K. Hunter, Executive Director of Fine Arts Cultural Enrichment Teaching Studios (FACETS). They reside in Orangeburg, South Carolina.