

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6007

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Ellis family for providing opportunities through their foundation for many students to access a higher level of education.

WHEREAS, Danny and Willa Ellis, residents of Fort Scott, Kansas, have turned their success and generosity into the establishment of the Ellis Foundation. The foundation, under the direction of their son Chris who serves as Executive Director, provides scholarships to students from low to medium income families in rural America, with an emphasis on single parent families; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Foundation is in its tenth year and currently supports 545 students with \$8,000 scholarships given out over eight consecutive semesters. The scholarships pay up to \$1,000 each semester directly to the student's designated college. The foundation's commitment for existing scholarships exceeds \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Foundation is managed by a private corporation owned and operated by the Ellis family, with the goal of obtaining sufficient funds to maintain over 1,000 student scholarships in their program as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Foundation was incorporated in Kansas in 1990 and is a qualified 509(a)(2) public charity and is funded by individuals, corporations and organizations that share the vision to help change young people's lives; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis family is rooted in Fort Scott, Kansas, and the inspiration for establishing this scholarship program was their daughter, Kathy Lyn Ellis Adriaance, who was a teacher at Blue Valley High School in Johnson County, Kansas, and died of breast cancer in 1997; and

WHEREAS, In addition to offering scholarships in Kansas, the Ellis family has offered scholarships in several other nearby states: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Danny, Willa and Chris Ellis for the establishment and continued direction of the Ellis Foundation and their efforts to make it possible for many students to obtain a college education and become successful citizens of our great country, and we know their efforts to prepare America's future leaders are very worthy and appreciated.

House Resolution No. 6007 was sponsored by Representative Shirley Palmer.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*