

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1837

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending William V. "Bill" Minner on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kansas Human Rights Commission and for his 41 years of service to the people of Kansas.

WHEREAS, William V. "Bill" Minner has dedicated his life to the advancement of civil and human rights for all Kansans and to the abolition of all forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Following his graduation from Langston University in Oklahoma, Mr. Minner joined the Kansas Human Rights Commission as a Field Investigator in 1972. After serving in various positions, he was promoted to Executive Director in 1997. In that same year he conciliated a discrimination complaint obtaining a \$200,000 settlement for the aggrieved party, the largest monetary settlement in the Commission's history; and

WHEREAS, In March 1995, the Commission had an open inventory of 2,678 cases, a record high for the agency, and a 22-month waiting period for investigation of complaints. At the end of Mr. Minner's 10<sup>th</sup> year as Executive Director, this backlog was reduced to 615 open cases with an average processing time of nine months; and

WHEREAS, Under Mr. Minner's leadership, the Kansas Human Rights Commission achieved national recognition when, in August 2004, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies recognized it "as one of the most successful Civil and Human Rights offices in the nation." Also under his leadership, the Commission resolved more than 17,000 complaints of alleged discrimination and recovered more than \$15 million on behalf of victims of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Minner has received many awards during his years of public service, including the U.S. Department of Justice Community Service Award in 1981, the Outstanding Public Service Award presented by the Coordinating Committee of the Black Community in 1987, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Governor's Award presented by Governor Bill Graves in 1995 and numerous other awards; and

WHEREAS, On December 6, 2013, Mr. Minner announced his retirement after 41 years with the Commission, the last 16 years as Executive Director, making him the Commission's longest-serving Executive Director and serving under four different Kansas Governors; and

WHEREAS, Bill and Janet Minner reside in Topeka, and they have two children, Mira, Oklahoma City, and Lance, Lawrence: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend William V. "Bill" Minner on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kansas Human Rights Commission for his 41 years of service to the people of Kansas and for his steadfast commitment to the cause of civil and human rights for all Kansans; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Hensley.

Senate Resolution No. 1837 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Kelly and V. Schmidt.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*