

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1796

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Zainab Dafalla on receiving a 2016 Gates Millennium Scholarship.

WHEREAS, Zainab Dafalla, from Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas, has been selected as a 2016 Gates Millennium Scholar; and

WHEREAS, The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was established in 1999 to promote academic excellence and to provide opportunities for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious program selects only 1,000 exceptional students per year nationwide to receive a full scholarship covering the cost of tuition, fees, books and living expenses at a college or university of the student's choice and offers students leadership development, mentoring and academic and social support; and

WHEREAS, To qualify for the program, students must receive endorsements from an educator and a community member, hold a minimum grade point average of 3.3 and demonstrate leadership through community service or extracurricular or other activities; and

WHEREAS, During her sophomore year, Zainab Dafalla's school attendance and grade point average began to drop after her mother was severely injured by a gunshot to the head. However, the unexpected tragedy motivated Zainab to start facing the harsh realities in her life more constructively; and

WHEREAS, Zainab Dafalla began working harder in school and, now in her senior year, has risen to the top 10 percent of her class of 307 students. Zainab has also participated in numerous activities in her school and community, including the Upward Bound Math and Science program, the Youth Exchange and Study program, the Wyandotte High School Student Council and the Wyandotte High School girls' varsity soccer team. Additionally, Zainab has diligently balanced her high school and extracurricular activities with work so she can save money and help her parents pay rent: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Zainab Dafalla on receiving a 2016 Gates Millennium Scholarship. Zainab has exemplified academic excellence and leadership, and we wish her all the best for continued success in future academic, personal and career challenges and opportunities; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Pettey.

Senate Resolution No. 1796 was sponsored by Senator Pat Pettey.

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.*