

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6035

A RESOLUTION recognizing Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little's dedicated service
to the University of Kansas and the State of Kansas.

WHEREAS, The University of Kansas was founded in 1865 as the state university for the State of Kansas and is now recognized as one of the nation's top public institutions; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Bernadette Gray-Little became the 17th chancellor of the University of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, After a remarkable eight-year term in which she guided KU to unprecedented success, elevated the university's national stature, and transformed how the university serves the state, the country, and the world, Chancellor Gray-Little will be stepping down this summer of 2017; and

WHEREAS, KU's mission is to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that change the world; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little advanced KU's mission to educate leaders by implementing new admissions standards, launching a new undergraduate curriculum, strengthening the university's scholarship offerings, prioritizing retention and graduation rates, increasing the size of the freshman class for five consecutive years, and reinvigorating the university's academic environment; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little has advanced KU's mission to build healthy communities by expanding the School of Medicine to a four-year program in Wichita, establishing a new School of Medicine program in Salina, doubling the number of students studying to be pharmacists with the expansion of the School of Pharmacy in Lawrence and the new division in Wichita, and by overseeing the University of Kansas Cancer Center's successful application for National Cancer Institute Designation; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little has advanced KU's mission to make discoveries by securing funding for the Foundation Distinguished Faculty Initiative, along with overseeing multiple all-time high annual awards of federal funding to KU for research; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little has demonstrated courage, compassion and foresight by leading university conversations on sexual assault, diversity and inclusion, campus safety, sustainability, and the living and working environment on campus; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little has overseen KU's efforts to invigorate the Kansas economy by creating new jobs, launching startup companies, fostering corporate partnerships, licensing new technologies, developing an engineering initiative to increase the number of engineering graduates, and cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset among faculty, staff and students; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little has led a physical transformation of KU's campuses by securing support for Capitol Federal Hall, the Health Education Building, Self and Oswald Halls, the Central District Redevelopment Project, the DeBruce Center, and the Earth, Energy and Environment Center, as well as major renovations to Swarthout Recital Hall, the Spencer Museum of Art, and Jayhawk Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Gray-Little was instrumental to KU's record-setting Far Above campaign, which raised \$1.66 billion in private gifts to support scholarships, faculty research and other key initiatives; and

WHEREAS, While her term as chancellor would be considered historic based on her successes and achievements alone, Chancellor Gray-Little will also be remembered as the first woman and first African-American chancellor in KU's history; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her remarkable technical skills, Chancellor Gray-Little has led with dignity, grace and humility and, as such, has served as a role model and inspiration to students, staff, faculty and colleagues throughout the state: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we commend Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little's transformative leadership at the University of Kansas during the past eight years, thank her for her dedicated service to the University of Kansas, the State of Kansas and the entire field of higher education, and wish her, her husband, Shade Little, and their family happiness and health in the future.

House Resolution No. 6035 was sponsored by Representatives Barbara Ballard, Dennis "Boog" Highberger, Tom Sloan and John Wilson.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.