

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1824

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Blue Valley High School Debate and Forensics Team for being 2008 6A State Debate Champions.

WHEREAS, Blue Valley High School has demonstrated consistent excellence in debate and forensics, winning eight debate and three forensics titles in the last nine years. They have also had five national top twenty debate speakers, more than any other school in Kansas. In 2005, Blue Valley was named a national school of excellence by the National Forensics League and ranked in the top 1% of all debate and forensics programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The 2007-2008 Blue Valley debate team consists of Megan Adams, Megan Ritter, Josh Dean, Taylor Nichols, Brian Israel, Andy Irwin, Andy Beye, Simon Yu, Robert Fitzpatrick, Kyle Petersen, Mitchell Waala, Sean Elliot and alternates Zach Garber and Tyler Kalmus; and

WHEREAS, Seniors Megan Adams and Megan Ritter have been debate partners since their sophomore year when they were state quarter-finalists. Juniors Josh Dean and Taylor Nichols qualified for Nationals in the Garden City tournament with their 6 to 1 record. The four won the state title by beating Olathe South and Blue Valley West with an 11-3 record; and

WHEREAS, The issue for the 2007-2008 competition was whether the United States federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to sub-Saharan Africa. The team spent an average of 20 hours a week researching the issue. They also attended summer camps and held practice contests with each other to prepare for the state championship; and

WHEREAS, The Blue Valley champions were coached by head coach Christopher Riffer and assistant coaches Jill Gouger and Adam Wade. Coach Riffer was named the Kansas Debate Coach of the Year after the January 2008 victory: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend the Blue Valley High School Debate and Forensics Team for winning the 2008 Class 6A state debate championship and for continuing the tradition of excellence in high school debate; further, that we congratulate and commend their coaches for the expert guidance they have provided; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide 20 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Vratil for presentation to the team and coaches.

Senate Resolution No. 1824 was sponsored by Senator John Vratil.

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.*