

A RESOLUTION urging United States Senate Majority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, to lead the Senate toward a confirmation hearing and to confirm President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, the Honorable Judge Merrick Brian Garland.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article III, Section 1, and the Judiciary Act of 1789, established the United States Supreme Court, and the 1869 amendment to the Judiciary Act set the number of Supreme Court justices at nine; and

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Gregory Scalia passed away on February 13, 2016, leaving one vacancy on the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, authorizes the United States President to nominate Judges for the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2016, President Barack Obama fulfilled his constitutional obligation by nominating United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Chief Judge Merrick Brian Garland to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Merrick Brian Garland graduated *summa cum laude* as valedictorian from Harvard College and graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School. He was law clerk to Judge Henry J. Friendly of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., of the United State Supreme Court. He worked in corporate litigation with one of the world's most prestigious law firms, Arnold and Porter, and as a United States Department of Justice federal prosecutor, he supervised the prosecution of the Unabomber and Oklahoma City bombings, and the investigation of the Atlanta Olympics bombing. His diverse bipartisan experience in the courtroom has earned support of conservatives and liberals alike; and

WHEREAS, Merrick Brian Garland was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and was confirmed by the United States Senate. Judge Garland is widely respected for his fairness and intellect and has vast experience working as the Chief Justice on the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's Senator Mitch McConnell is the Senate Majority Leader, and thus has the power to allow hearings on any nominee; and

WHEREAS, by allowing President Obama's nominee to be considered and voted on by the United States Senate through a confirmation hearing, Senator McConnell would fulfill his duties as Senate Majority Leader and as an elected representative for the state of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate should fulfill their constitutional duties by conducting a hearing on and confirming the nomination of Judge Merrick Brian Garland to the United States Supreme Court;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives urges Senator Mitch McConnell to lead the Senate toward a confirmation hearing and to confirm President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, the Honorable Judge Merrick Brian Garland.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of the Resolution to United States Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, and President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.