

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of William
2 Bryant "Bill" Gatewood.

3 WHEREAS, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, William Bryant "Bill" Gatewood
4 was born on April 6, 1944, to Ernest and Sarah Eaves Gatewood. His lifetime peers and
5 friends knew him only as "Bill" Gatewood; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood was raised in the Beecher Terrace Housing Community
7 in Louisville. He attended S.C. Taylor Elementary School, Madison Junior High School,
8 and Central High School. The elders of his community and teachers within these schools
9 assisted in shaping his personality to become a community and political activist. One of
10 his first experiences within the political realm was being elected president of his
11 homeroom class in his junior year at Central High School. Bill Gatewood continued his
12 leadership journey and was elected president of his school's graduating class; and

13 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood continued his scholarly journey to the University of
14 Louisville, where he focused his studies on subjects related to community development
15 and economic and political empowerment of working-class people of all races; and

16 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood was a devoted community and political activist within
17 his treasured hometown of Louisville. He worked tirelessly advocating for greater
18 employment opportunities and better educational services to underserved communities.
19 His day-to-day efforts aided in the pursuit of enhanced affordable housing stock for
20 working-class people, and greater representation of community groups underrepresented
21 on boards and councils. Bill Gatewood was instrumental in advocating how and when the
22 city's resources were needed to support social, political, and economic justice for
23 working-class people; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1979, Bill Gatewood and five others from the Chestnut Street
25 YMCA envisioned a mentoring program to serve African American youth. The
26 Louisville Black Achievers program was formed from this collaboration to advance the
27 economic well-being of Louisville's Black community. Bill Gatewood supported and

1 participated with a group of Black high-ranking city officials, along with civil rights and
2 community leaders, to form the organization PAC-10; and

3 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood was appointed by the Mayor of Louisville as the
4 director of the city's Office of Community Development. After leaving city government,
5 he became Director of Community Programs for the Presbyterian Community Center, a
6 church-supported non-profit organization in the Smoketown and Shelby Park areas of
7 Louisville. Through his work with the community center, Bill Gatewood collaborated
8 with the Metro Housing Resource Center. He also served as a community council
9 member for his Shawnee neighborhood in West Louisville; and

10 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood was an elder role model and pillar of leadership in his
11 family. He would deliver assistance and advice, to the degree he was able to, to anyone
12 within his family or community. On numerous occasions, Bill Gatewood welcomed
13 family members to live in his home rent free when they needed a place to stay for an
14 unspecified period of time; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Gatewood was called peacefully to his Lord on January 19, 2023,
16 at the age of 78. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Arminta Poignard; his
17 parents; his sister, Sara Gatewood-Sanders; and his brothers, James Dobbins, Earnest
18 Gatewood, Craig Gatewood, Lavelle Gatewood, and Fred Gatewood. Bill Gatewood is
19 survived by his brother, Lucian "LB" Gatewood; his daughter, Adriann Gatewood; his
20 grandchildren, Ke'Aira (Robert) Wooden-Brown, Arianna Sadler, and William Hazard;
21 siblings from his father's third marriage, Johnny, Frankie, Bobbie, Lillian, Sally, and
22 Earnestine Gatewood; and a host of other close relatives and friends;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

24 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
25 ***Kentucky:***

26 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby extends its most profound sympathy upon the
27 passing of William Bryant "Bill" Gatewood and expresses heartfelt condolences to his

1 family in this time of loss.

2 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
3 memory of William Bryant "Bill" Gatewood.

4 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this
5 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery to the family.