

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 394

BY REPRESENTATIVE MENA

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Dr. L'Isaa LaChandra Gates

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Dr. L'Isaa
3 LaChandra Gates.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on May 25, 2026,
6 of Dr. L'Isaa LaChandra Gates; and

7 WHEREAS, L'Isaa LaChandra Gates was born on May 3, 1982, to Jeffery Gates and
8 CaSandra Cooper-Gates in New Orleans, Louisiana; she was educated in the Orleans Parish
9 Public School System and graduated from Benjamin Franklin Senior High School in 1999;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates attended Xavier University of Louisiana, where she received
12 a bachelor of science degree in biology/pre-medicine and graduated magna cum laude with
13 honors in biology and chemistry in 2003; she attended Louisiana State University Health
14 Sciences Center in New Orleans and graduated with a doctor of medicine degree in 2007;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates completed a residency training program in pediatrics with the
17 LSU School of Medicine and began a practice in pediatrics with Westside Clinics, AMC,
18 where she eventually became a partner; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates's practice was merged into Ochsner for Children-Westside
20 Pediatrics, where she served as a senior attending physician; at the time of her passing, she

1 was scheduled to serve as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the developing Xavier
2 Ochsner College of Medicine; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates was an alumna of the Rosenblum Healthcare Institute and
4 Committee for a Better New Orleans/Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum; she was
5 a member of the Delgado Community College Care & Development of Young Children
6 Board of Advisors, where she provided her keen expertise in child care and commitment to
7 quality and affordable healthcare; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates was licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical
9 Examiners and the Louisiana Department of Education; she was a member of Alpha Omega
10 Alpha Medical, Beta Beta Beta Biological, Phi Lambda Upsilon Chemical, Alpha Epsilon
11 Delta Premedical, Delta Omega Public Health, and Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership and
12 Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Mu, Mortar Board, and Phi Sigma Theta
13 Scholastic Honor Societies; she was also a member of the American Medical Association
14 and was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates was a positive and visible role model in her community, and
16 she participated in the American Medical Association Doctors Back to School (STEM)
17 program and was a Junior Achievement Volunteer; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates championed the causes of numerous organizations, including
19 the American Cancer Society, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Susan G. Komen
20 Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, and March of
21 Dimes; she gave selflessly to local initiatives that directly impacted women, minorities, and
22 the community; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates was recognized for her efforts in philanthropy and received
24 awards from East Baton Rouge Parish, Jefferson Parish, the mayor of New Orleans, the New
25 Orleans City Council, the Legislature of Louisiana, the president, and congress; she was
26 recognized as *Data News Weekly's* 2013 Trailblazer, *New Orleans Magazine's* Top Female
27 Achiever, and *Gambit Weekly's* 40 Under 40; *New Orleans City Business Magazine* listed
28 her among its Ones to Watch and Women of the Year and lauded her as a Healthcare Hero;
29 and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates was a member of Second Mount Everest Baptist Church,
2 where she served in the choir, administrative office staff, Sunday school, and prayer
3 ministry; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Gates is survived by her loving parents, Jeffery Gates and CaSandra
5 Cooper-Gates; grandmothers, Annie Dupree Cooper and Audrey Smith Gates; fiancé,
6 Dr. Derek Bardell; great-aunts, Fran Dupree and Beverly Dupree; great-uncle and godfather,
7 Isaac Dupree; godmother, Maxine Buckles; uncle, Lawrence Gates; "sister" and best friend,
8 Ebony Broussard; "big sister", Wendy Lewis; godchild, Tai Linton; "bonus aunt", Brenda
9 Wilson; and a host of cousins, extended relatives, and friends; she will be deeply missed, but
10 the legacy of her love and commitment to helping others through her work shall live on in
11 the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved her.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dr. L'Isaa
14 LaChandra Gates and does hereby extend sincere wishes that her family, friends, colleagues,
15 and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 394 Original

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