

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 394

BY REPRESENTATIVE MENA

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Gates's practice was merged into Ochsner for Children-Westside Pediatrics, where she served as a senior attending physician; at the time of her passing, she was scheduled to serve as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the developing Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Gates is survived by her loving parents, Jeffery Gates and CaSandra Cooper-Gates; grandmothers, Annie Dupree Cooper and Audrey Smith Gates; fiancé, Dr. Derek Bardell; great-aunts, Fran Dupree and Beverly Dupree; great-uncle and godfather, Isaac Dupree; godmother, Maxine Buckles; uncle, Lawrence Gates; "sister" and best friend, Ebony Broussard; "big sister", Wendy Lewis; godchild, Tai Linton; "bonus aunt", Brenda Wilson; and a host of cousins, extended relatives, and friends; she will be deeply missed, but

the legacy of her love and commitment to helping others through her work shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved her.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES