

**No. R-148. House concurrent resolution congratulating Gloria Kigonya on winning the 2019 Vermont Debate and Forensics League State Forensics Tournament's performance poetry category.**

(H.C.R.122)

Offered by: Representatives Austin of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Chase of Colchester, and Taylor of Colchester

Whereas, on February 2, 2019, the State Forensics Tournament sponsored by the Vermont Debate and Forensics League was held at the State House, and

Whereas, the tournament featured a number of different speech formats, including performance poetry, and

Whereas, this being a statewide contest, the best students in the respective categories participated, and a freshman faced the challenge of outscoring more experienced competitors, and

Whereas, despite this challenge, Colchester High School freshman Gloria Kigonya overcame the odds and won the performance poetry category, and

Whereas, her performance consisted of two poetry recitations, "I Could Ask, But I Think They Use Tweezers" by Aziza Barnes and "How We Could Have Lived or Died This Way" by Martin Espada, and

Whereas, Gloria Kigonya selected these poems because they focus on violence perpetrated against persons of color in the United States, a topic that is of great importance to her, and

Whereas, the contest served as a platform for Gloria Kigonya to exercise her interest in activism and an ideal chance to improve her public speaking skills, and

Whereas, as a result of her Vermont victory, Gloria Kigonya will be representing Vermont in the performance poetry category at this year's Grand National Tournament of the National Catholic Forensic League in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a tournament that the National Association of Secondary School Principals cosponsors, and

Whereas, her Vermont tournament win is a major achievement, especially for a high school freshman, and her coach, Colchester High School teacher Benjamin Beaudoin, is proud of her success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Gloria Kigonya on winning the 2019 Vermont Debate and Forensics League State Forensics Tournament's performance poetry category and wishes her every success at the national competition in Milwaukee, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gloria Kigonya and to Benjamin Beaudoin.