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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Maya-Gabrielle Francesca Gary of Oak Park, who passed away on November 15, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Gary was born in Melrose Park to Thomas S. Gary and Evette F. Little on November 3, 1998; her family moved from the far south side of Chicago to the south side of Oak Park when she was three, where she lived most of her life; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Gary is the younger sister of her loving and very protective brother, Alexander T. Gary; a unique chemistry existed between them from early on, as she understood her brother as no other, being his counselor, collaborator, and emissary to the world; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Gary attended the West Suburban Montessori School beginning in 2001; she demonstrated early on that she was a very skilled learner, reading by age four and possessing a strong mathematical mind; she also attended Whittier Elementary School, Julian Middle School, and Oak Park and River Forest High School, spending her junior year abroad at Stuttgart High School in Germany; she looked forward to attending college at either an east or west coast university; and

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1 WHEREAS, Maya Gary was a talented performer, beginning as a
2 singer in the Oak Park and River Forest Children's Choir; she
3 participated in Julian Middle School's summer CAST
4 (Communication Arts, Speech, and Theater) productions for four
5 years; her first role was as a featured performer in the
6 production "Smile"; these experiences instilled in her that
7 when she entered middle school, she knew she wanted to be a
8 part of the performing arts community year round, not just in
9 the summers; and

10 WHEREAS, Maya Gary was always very proud and grateful for
11 all opportunities to perform no matter how big or small, with
12 roles at Julian Middle School's CAST productions such as,
13 Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet", Sister Sarah in "Guys and Dolls",
14 and Charlotte in "Charlotte's Web"; and

15 WHEREAS, Maya Gary later joined Oak Park and River Forest
16 High School's show choir, Noteworthy; in the two years she was
17 part of Noteworthy, they performed at Graceland in Memphis,
18 Tennessee, and at a national competition at McKendree
19 University in Lebanon near St. Louis, Missouri in 2015, winning
20 many of the major awards; and

21 WHEREAS, Maya Gary showed an affinity for travel early on
22 when she went with her family to Georgia, Florida, Virginia,

1 and Washington, D.C.; additionally, her father's military
2 service took her to Europe, going from Amsterdam to Zurich,
3 from the Austrian Alps to the Catalonian shore; her love of
4 Europe's culture and history would leave a longing to visit
5 again, even on a more permanent basis; and

6 WHEREAS, Maya Gary's political mindset began to blossom
7 when she arrived at Stuttgart High School at the same time as
8 the influx of refugee arrivals throughout Germany; she demanded
9 that she and her father "do something" to help; she persuaded
10 her father to rethink his candidate choice for the United
11 States Presidential election of 2016, something no one had ever
12 done before; ensuring she was registered to vote, and casting
13 her ballot for the first time, she proudly and happily voted
14 for women candidates running for several offices in the
15 November 8, 2016 election; she departed this life on November
16 15, 2016, two weeks after turning 18 and one week after voting
17 in her first election; and

18 WHEREAS, Maya Gary was a prolific writer of short stories,
19 poems, and song lyrics, with several hundred pieces archived;
20 she dreamed of possibly becoming a journalist or combining her
21 love of writing and music; and

22 WHEREAS, Maya Gary is remembered for her talent,
23 intelligence, sass, beautiful spirit, and her infectious

1 smile; and

2 WHEREAS, Maya Gary was preceded in death by her
3 grandparents, John Little, Lillian (Sharp) Reed, and Thomas
4 Gary; and

5 WHEREAS, Maya Gary is survived by her parents, Evette
6 Little and Thomas Gary; her brother, Alexander; her uncles and
7 aunts, Keith, Michael, Stanley, Pat, and Sarah; her cousins,
8 Neilson, Naomi, Ronnie, Donella, Monique, Jamal, Cheryl,
9 Patricia, Danyell, and Yvette; and an innumerable amount of
10 friends and family; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Maya-Gabrielle Francesca Gary, and extend our sincere
14 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
15 her; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Maya Gary as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.