

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 370

In Memory  
of  
Kelly Walters

**WHEREAS**, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at the loss of Kelly Walters of Arlington, a remarkable young woman whose life was tragically cut short on January 16, 2015, at the age of 20; and

**WHEREAS**, Adopted from the Gladney Center when she was only two weeks old, Kelly Walters was a lively, inquisitive, and physically daring child from a very early age, whether it was swinging from the monkey bars at day care, playing on the roof with a friend, or riding a goat at a birthday party without the goat's permission; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Walters first showed signs of a budding interest in politics in the first grade; when she complained about some rules at school, her mother explained to her that the rules were set by the school board and the State Board of Education, and Ms. Walters decided that she needed to become president of the United States, even writing to President Bill Clinton and offering to take over the job during the contested election of 2000; on another occasion, after she was written up by her teacher for poking another student with a pencil, the indomitable Ms. Walters wrote under the teacher's comments, "needs more pencils"; and

**WHEREAS**, At the age of seven, Ms. Walters watched the coverage of the attack on New York on September 11, 2001, with her mother, and after reading a book about a young girl in Afghanistan who poses as a boy to feed her family, she was inspired to help women and girls in the Arab world, a passion that continued into her adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Walters began asking questions at the town hall meetings of United States Representative Joe Barton when she was in her teens, and when she was 17, he sponsored her as a page in the United States Congress; close to home, she volunteered with the Tarrant County Republican Party, was a leading member of the Arlington Republican Club, and served as an election judge on several occasions; and

**WHEREAS**, After graduating from Lamar High School, Ms. Walters enrolled in The University of Texas at Arlington, where she was double-majoring in psychology and political science; she was also studying Arabic, intending to follow through on her youthful commitment to work for women's rights in the Arab world; at the time of her death, she was planning to leave for an intensive Arabic immersion program in Morocco; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Walters also showed her idealism and her concern for others in her personal life on a daily basis, helping

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out friends in need, taking an interest in individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs, and earning the respect of people of all ages with her intelligence, compassion, and maturity; and

**WHEREAS**, During her years on this earth, Kelly Walters demonstrated a passion for life and a steadfast commitment to the causes in which she believed, and her legacy will continue to inspire all those who were privileged to know her; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Kelly Walters and extend sincere condolences to her parents, Ginna Walters and Gary Brizendine, and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Kelly Walters.

Burton

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 16, 2015, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate