

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1737

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kansas, for winning the national "Child Genius" competition.

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2015, the Lifetime television channel aired the final episode of its intelligence competition, "Child Genius," with Vanya Shivashankar, an eighth grade 4.0 Honor Roll student from California Trail Middle School, Olathe, Kansas, being the show's winner, receiving a \$100,000 college fund and the title "Child Genius 2014"; and

WHEREAS, "Child Genius" pitted 20 gifted American youth, ages eight through 12, against each other over an eight-week period by challenging them in a multitude of subjects, including zoology, logic, the human body, earth science, spelling, geography and memory, until the final round, in which the three remaining contestants had 10 minutes each to respond to 50 questions. Vanya placed first by correctly answering 30 questions, six more than the second place finisher; and

WHEREAS, Vanya had previously won the Mid-America Music Association Award for Exceptional Pianist; been a double bronze individual winner on the 2013 Science Olympiad Regional Championship team; placed second in the 2014-15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest; and for the fourth time, on February 12, 2015, won the Olathe Spelling Bee, sending her to the Scripps National Spelling Bee finals this May to follow in the footsteps of her older sister, Kavya, who was national champion in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Vanya's parents, Sandy and Mirle Shivashankar, have given strong support, encouragement and inspiration to both of their daughters as the girls have worked hard to achieve their chosen goals, which in Vanya's case is to become a cardiac surgeon, but with a variety of other talents and interests, including playing piano and tuba, singing, dancing, acting, bike riding and swimming, as well as reading through her personal library of over 200 novels at least four times: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Vanya Shivashankar, her parents, her school and its Principal, Mrs. Connie Viebrock, for the remarkable accomplishment of Vanya's earning the title, "Child Genius 2014," such victory demonstrating that her prodigious intelligence is surpassed only by her high levels of motivation and self-discipline. We wish her all the best for continued success in the National Spelling Bee next month and all future academic, personal and career challenges as she further develops and applies her amazing gifts; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Lynn.

Senate Resolution No. 1737 was sponsored by Senators Julia Lynn and Rob Olson.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.