

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 238**

Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9; McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, Henry Yates School, located in the Gifford Park neighborhood of Omaha, was built more than 100 years ago. After serving as a school for many years, for the last decade the school has served as the home of the Yates Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the Yates Community Center has served the community by providing educational programs for immigrants and refugees and hosting neighborhood and community events; and

WHEREAS, the Yates Community Center offered lifelong learning programs, proven to improve the quality of life of all people; and

WHEREAS, the Yates Community Center has been a valuable resource for immigrant and refugee families to learn English and receive job skills training and provides educational support for all children and adults; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood residents organized to prevent the closure and sale of the Yates Community Center; and

WHEREAS, former Senators Gwen Howard and Sara Howard were instrumental in working with residents to find a solution to save the Yates Community Center; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education approved the transfer of the Yates Community Center to Yates Illuminates, a nonprofit community partnership; and

WHEREAS, Yates Illuminates will work with community partners such as Metropolitan Community College, Refugee Empowerment Center, Restoring Dignity, Learning For ALL, D2 Center, Great Plains Theater Commons, Refugee Women Rising, Intercultural Senior Center, Families In Action, and Lending Link; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2021, Yates Illuminates held an open house for the

community to see available programs; and

WHEREAS, Yates will open to the public in early 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the efforts of Yates Illuminates in serving refugees, immigrants, and residents of all ages who seek to learn new things and improve life skills.

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Yates Illuminates and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.