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Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION  
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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15 To recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Medical Society of the District of  
16 Columbia and its 200 year history of commitment to the public health and well-being of  
17 District of Columbia residents and patients, and access to quality medical care provided  
18 in accordance with the Hippocratic Oath.  
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20 WHEREAS, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (the Medical Society) was  
21 founded on September 26, 1817 at Tennison’s Tavern, located at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania  
22 Avenue NW in Washington, DC, making it the 12<sup>th</sup> oldest medical society in the nation;  
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24 WHEREAS, the Medical Society was formed by 16 founding physicians to protect the  
25 public from charlatan healers who were plying on an unsuspecting public their unproven,  
26 sometimes dangerous “remedies,” putting the public health at risk;  
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28 WHEREAS, on February 16, 1819, the Medical Society became the first medical society  
29 chartered by an Act of Congress, which deemed it to be “a community, corporation and body  
30 politic forever”;  
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32 WHEREAS, the Medical Society has played a pivotal role in protecting the integrity of  
33 the physician-patient relationship for the diverse physicians of the District of Columbia;  
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35 WHEREAS, the Medical Society advocates on behalf of the more than 10,000 doctors  
36 licensed in the District of Columbia and the patients whom they treat;  
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38 WHEREAS, the Medical Society played a critical role in the improvement of the  
39 District’s potable water supply through engagement with the United States Congress and  
40 conducting scientific research, and in the eradication of polio and small pox in the District of  
41 Columbia by organizing large scale immunization programs;  
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43 WHEREAS, the Medical Society has led campaigns to combat numerous public health  
44 crises and illnesses in the District of Columbia, including but not limited to cholera, typhoid  
45 fever, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, stroke, cancer, tobacco use and opioid abuse;  
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1           WHEREAS, the Medical Society organized a corps of physicians trained in emergency  
2 preparedness to guard against threats to public health and safety following the attacks of  
3 September 11, 2001  
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5           WHEREAS, the Medical Society was a catalyst in founding the District's diverse health  
6 care system, and its leaders assisted in establishing Providence Hospital; Columbia Hospital for  
7 Women; Children's Hospital of the District of Columbia; Freedman's Hospital, predecessor to  
8 Howard University Hospital; and George Washington University Hospital;  
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10           WHEREAS, the Medical Society has long supported the behavioral health needs of  
11 District residents and advocated for the first federally operated hospital for psychiatric care  
12 which opened in 1855;  
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14           WHEREAS, the Medical Society has emphasized the need for trained physicians since its  
15 inception, advocating for the first medical department in the District of Columbia, which opened  
16 in 1825 at Columbian College;  
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18           WHEREAS, Medical Society leaders have volunteered their time, experience and  
19 expertise to support numerous District board and commissions, most recently the Mayor's  
20 Commission on HIV/AIDS, the DC Health Information Exchange Policy Board, and the DC  
21 State Health Planning and Development Agency, in addition to countless local healthcare,  
22 religious, civic, and community organizations; and  
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24           WHEREAS, the Medical Society is as committed today to the public health and well-  
25 being of District of Columbia residents and providing access to quality medical care as any time  
26 in its history, and will persist with its commitment to a healthier future for the District of  
27 Columbia.  
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29           **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF**  
30 **COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Medical Society of the District of**  
31 **Columbia 200th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2017".**  
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33           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes the Medical Society  
34 of the District of Columbia for its 200 year commitment to improving the health and lives of  
35 District residents.  
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37           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
38 the District of Columbia Register.  
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