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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING BISHOP HENDRICKEN GRADUATE KWITY PAYE ON BEING
SELECTED BY THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS WITH THE 21ST PICK IN THE FIRST
ROUND OF THE 2021 NFL DRAFT

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Felag, and Burke

Date Introduced: May 11, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Few rags to riches stories are as inspirational and heartwarming as the tale
2 of Kwity Paye, a young man born in a refugee camp in Guinea to Liberian parents who were
3 escaping war-torn Liberia and the first Liberian Civil War; and

4 WHEREAS, Kwity Paye was brought to Rhode Island with his brother Komotay Koffie
5 by his mother Agnes. As they grew older, his mother signed them up for football at the Boys &
6 Girls Club and it became a life passion for them both. After middle school, Kwity was accepted
7 into Bishop Hendricken, but the cost seemed to be beyond the family's means. However, he
8 convinced his mother that attending Bishop Hendricken was worth the burden by promising her
9 that she would not have to pay for him to go to college; and

10 WHEREAS, His mother Agnes worked long and arduous hours, sometimes putting in
11 nearly 24 hour days, to pay for his tuition and Kwity worked tirelessly both in the classroom and
12 on the field to ensure that his mother's sacrifice was a worthwhile endeavor. As a defensive
13 lineman and running back in high school, he was virtually unstoppable, bringing to the gridiron a
14 combination of size and speed rarely if ever seen in Rhode Island. In recognition of his success on
15 the field, Kwity was named the Rhode Island Gatorade Player of the Year in 2016; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Paye quickly drew the attention of the leading college football
17 universities in the country, and chose to play for the storied University of Michigan football
18 program. While at Michigan, he started four games at defensive end as a sophomore and became
19 the full-time starter at that position as a junior. Paye was dominant in Big Ten competition as a

1 junior, finishing the season with 50 tackles, 6.5 sacks and earning Second-Team All-Conference
2 Big Ten honors. He repeated as a Second-Team All-Conference Big Ten selection in the COVID-
3 19 shortened 2020 season; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Paye's work ethic is legendary within Rhode Island football circles.
5 Whether it was practicing on the field, working out in the weight room or giving his all on every
6 play in a game despite the bruises and pain that come routinely in football, no one has ever
7 outworked Kwity Paye; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Paye is also a young man of impeccable character always willing to
9 help out and make a positive difference with the next generation. Coach Willie Edwards, the
10 former Moses Brown Football Coach and current Assistant Coach at Brown University, first met
11 Kwity at a youth football camp volunteering to work with elementary-aged kids. Coach Edwards
12 was amazed to observe the effort and selflessness exhibited by Mr. Paye on that day. From
13 interacting with the kids and teaching them the basics of football, to picking up the pylons, and
14 cleaning up the field and making sure the job was done properly, Mr. Paye's humility,
15 compassion, and tireless work ethic impressed everyone; and

16 WHEREAS, The NFL draft is not just about talent. Anyone taken in the draft, especially
17 the first round, has talent. What really makes a young man special in the eyes of many NFL
18 scouts and front office personnel is someone who can combine a high level of God-given talent
19 with an extraordinary work ethic, and be a quality person all at the same time. Rhode Island-
20 raised Kwity Paye is exactly this kind of person and that is why he became only the second
21 Rhode Island high school football player to be chosen in the first round of the NFL draft when he
22 was selected with the 21st pick in the 2021 NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts; now, therefore be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby congratulates Kwity
25 Paye on being selected in the first round of the 2021 NFL draft and wishes him continued success
26 both on and off the gridiron in the future; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Kwity Paye.

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