

1. What are the nominee's specific achievements?

I first met Aimee Resnick when I was the Chair of the Centennial Youth Commission, and she was selected to join the commission as an 8th grader – an honor which is rare. However, by that time, Aimee had already established herself as a successful academic and had volunteered around the Denver area for several organizations that served homeless populations or LGBTQ+ youth. The year before being accepted to the Youth Commission, Aimee had a close friend get diagnosed with ovarian cancer. So along with starting 7th grade, Aimee had also started a local 501(c)(3) non-profit to help comfort patients going through chemotherapy. This work started humbly, as an attempt to comfort her own friend, but Aimee saw an opportunity to use her leadership to comfort strangers as well as they battled cancer. The non-profit, named ChemoComfort Baskets got its first small donations by reaching out to Colorado-based companies like Celestial Seasonings, but Aimee taught herself digital marketing and grant writing and brought in over \$10,000 worth of donations to help over 400 chemotherapy patients.

In her first year in the youth commission, Aimee helped organize a volunteer effort to make blankets for local hospitals, as well as a new community event called “Dog Days” (now held annually) to foster community and celebrate pets in Centennial, CO. Aimee also ran, and was successfully elected by her fellow commissioners, for the role of Youth Commission scribe. In this role, Aimee excelled at record keeping and worked alongside Centennial City staff to manage attendance and budgets of the commission. Aimee managed all our records in compliance with the Colorado Open Records Act. Aimee was also an active magistrate in the Youth Commission's Teen Court program and helped convince City Council to expand the program to also allow teens with fireworks tickets to be seen by the youth commission in addition to the previous crimes of Minor in Possession tickets and Curfew tickets. This helped to keep Centennial teen's records clean and reduce our city's overall observed youth violations all through restorative justice. During this year, Aimee also helped to contact local businesses and start a youth job fair in the city which occurs annually now in partnership with Arapahoe-Douglas Works! Workforce Center.

Starting her second year in the youth commission Aimee continued her role as stage manager for the Ensemble Theater Company and continued to volunteer to help put on shows. After the summer, Aimee started her freshmen year of high school. During this entire year, Aimee helped reshape the Youth Commission into a body known around the state for its work on youth mental health issues. She also continued to help maintain teen court programs, Dog Days, Teen Court, and continued as the Youth Commission's scribe. In the winter of that year, Aimee began working pro-bono for CO Rep. Meg Froelich as her social media manager. As social media manager, Aimee started and maintained a bi-monthly newsletter for constituents, redesigned and maintained a new website, and more than doubled Rep. Froelich's previous ability to communicate online.

In her fourth year in the Youth Commission, Aimee continued to serve as scribe and maintain our regular programs. In addition to that, she continued her work with Rep. Froelich, and worked for CO Rep. Sullivan during the summer as a bill researcher and social media manager. She organized monthly town halls, founded his “constituent of the month” award program organized meetings, assembled bill proposals, and created communication networks to inform constituents of legislative progress. That summer,

Aimee also joined the CO Youth Advisory Council (COYAC). As a COYAC Representative, Aimee advocated for data driven solutions to youth mental health issues.

By the end of that year, Aimee had risen to become the co-chair of COYAC's Youth Suicide Prevention Commission as well as the Chair of the Centennial Youth Commission. Beyond the accomplishments in what she was achieving for her state, Aimee also continued to be a straight A student. Now, Aimee continues to hold the same positions for COYAC, Rep. Froelich, and the Centennial Youth Commission as well as receiving awards nationally for her work around community organizing and politics aimed at helping youth and other underserved groups.

2. What impact has the nominee had on the community through financial contributions and/or volunteerism?

Throughout her work in Colorado, Aimee has inspired others and led by example. Thanks to her passion and hard work, Aimee was able to directly affect legislation of Rep. Froelich, Rep. Sullivan, and Rep. Michaelson-Janet. Aimee had input on bills that helped safely store firearms, banned medical practitioners for working for conversion therapy programs aimed at minors, helped protect surrogates in Colorado, and helped reform K-12 mental health practices across the state. Aimee also helped support cancer patients through her work in her non-profit ChemoComforts Baskets where she has helped provide support to over 400 patients. Aimee also helped reform previously existing programs like expanding the scope of the Centennial Youth Commissions work and helping to make the COYAC Youth Suicide Prevention Commission nationally recognized for its work. All of this was done even before her senior year of high school.

3. What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

Aimee has always been a humble and hard worker. She always listens closely before she speaks on any issue, and because of that she garners the respect of everyone she works with. Aimee is increasingly getting higher positions in whatever organizations she is a part of, but she is always willing to do any work so long as it is helping others. Aimee also does all her social, political, and community work pro-bono, where her only rewards are building herself into who she wants to be and knowing she is helping others. When considering all her accomplishments and work, it is undeniable that Aimee embodies what it means to be a philanthropist because she does it all for the betterment of others.

4. How does the nominee adopt a spirit of inclusion? (i.e. inviting broad participation, mentoring young professionals, hiring diverse applicants, etc.)

Aimee has heavily focused her work thus far on helping underserved groups, especially youth. Beyond just aiming to serve youth though, Aimee has also done work around LGBTQ+ issues and work for victims of abuse. Besides her body of work speaking for itself, Aimee also makes a concerted effort to open doors for other youth in politics. Aimee recognizes that getting legislators to pay attention to youth is a rare gift that she has been given and she places an emphasis on recruiting youth from around the state for the organizations Aimee is involved with.

To Whom It May Concern:

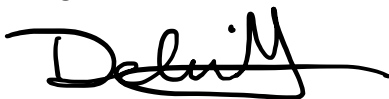
It is my great pleasure to write a nomination and recommendation for Aimee Resnick. I first met Ms. Resnick when she applied to be a member of the City of Centennial's Youth Commission. At the time, I was the vice-chair of the commission, and was one of the people who reviewed Ms. Resnick's application. She was the most impressive application I had ever seen, even though she was also the youngest applicant I had ever reviewed. As an incoming 8th grader, Ms. Resnick had already shown incredible leadership skill that she utilized to help in the issues that she felt passionate about. These issues included LGBTQ+ rights, overall youth issues, and helping to comfort cancer patients.

I was able to watch Ms. Resnick grow over the years. In her first year in the Youth Commission, she was shy and timid despite her accomplishments far outweighing most members of the commission and many staffers for the city. However, when it came time for business, and conversations about how to help under served groups came up, Ms. Resnick was always one of the wisest voices in the room. While never being overpowering or being the loudest in the room, it was always clear that she was both well researched and well respected on almost any issue surrounding an underserved group. Ms. Resnick combined her passion and expertise with a strategic mindset which allowed her to prioritize the ideas that were most feasible for the Youth Commission to address. This was a surprising quality which showed me that Ms. Resnick was not only gifted and capable of pushing positive change, but that she possessed a maturity and necessary calculating mind which would allow her to turn her passions into true change.

My predictions about her passions and wisdoms would be proven with time. In the next few years, I was the chair of the Youth Commission, and I had the pleasure of watching Ms. Resnick grow herself outside of the Youth Commission, as well as within it. With every passing year, Ms. Resnick became more respected by her peers and supervisors as she continued to display wisdom and a hard work ethic. As a result, Ms. Resnick began to come across opportunities to work directly with legislators on both the state and federal level. Ms. Resnick would come to Youth Commission meetings with stories of the legislative issues she was helping to address which includes gun safety, LGTBQ+ issues, addressing Colorado's youth suicide problem. Ms. Resnick led the charge on organizing numerous philanthropic events in Centennial like Dog Days, the NAMI walk, and supply drives for hospitals among other things.

Outside of her vast work in Centennial, Ms. Resnick has turned her own struggles into victories. Ms. Resnick has been public about her mental health struggles over the years, and she has quite likely the largest youth voice in Colorado advocating for data-driven solutions to our state's teen suicide problem. Ms. Resnick has worked with the Governor's office, and currently works pro-bono for COYAC as the co-chair for the Youth Suicide Prevention Commission, the City of Centennial as the chair of the Youth Commission, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist. She actively seeks those who need help, and ensures they get the help they need. Through her own struggles as well as the struggles of her loved ones, Ms. Resnick has built herself into a hardworking and passionate individual who isn't just demonstrating the potential to change our state but is actively doing it. I am not writing this letter because I'm proud to have known Ms. Resnick as she grew these last few years, but also because, as somebody who has lost close friends to suicide, I am grateful for her work which has helped many families avoid the tragedy of losing children. Ms. Resnick has helped our state, families, and communities greatly, and deserves to be recognized for that.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delwin Maben', with a stylized, flowing script.

Delwin Maben

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate Aimee Resnick for Outstanding Youth for National Philanthropy Day's award. Aimee is a student in my AP research class at Cherry Creek High School. Over the course of the school year, I've gotten to know Aimee. Although she is humble in her many accomplishments, she is a strong, capable leader both inside and outside of the classroom. I believe she is a highly qualified candidate based on the criteria for this prestigious award.

During Aimee's time in my class, she has continually impressed me with her diverse involvement in several organizations as well as the rank in those organizations. There is truly no limit on the wonderful things I can share about Aimee, but for the purposes of this letter, I will focus on her leadership skills and the many organizations she is involved with or founded.

Most students would be lucky to be considered a leader in one group, but Aimee has co-founded a nonprofit organization, ChemoComfort Baskets, as well as the president of Centennial's Youth Commission, involvement in the theater as a stage manager, and the list goes on. She is one of the busiest students I have had the pleasure to know. Rather than being overwhelmed by her number of commitments, she thrives. She is truly the definition of a leader. Aimee spends her time working towards goals that are agreed upon from the organizations she works with. She has a clear vision of how to reach each organization's goals and can clearly communicate the steps to achieve them due to her inherent leadership qualities. For example, Centennial has set up a program for youth suicide prevention. Aimee has worked with Colorado Crisis Services to better meet the needs of our community given past tragic events. She has put together workshops with her peers to educate a greater number of people on youth issues. Without Aimee's hard work and commitment to her leadership position, this incredibly important coalition would not be as productive as they are. She has made a significant impact on our communities' response to youth in crisis.

I am certain that there are a vast number of qualified candidates for this scholarship. But there are no candidates like Aimee. She is tenacious, kind, driven, inclusive; and I have no doubt that she will make a lasting impact on our community. Aimee exceeds the criteria in place for this scholarship through her altruistic actions and leadership capabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,
Conley Flynn

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