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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to honor and congratulate Dominic V. Belmonte on his extraordinary contributions to teaching and learning in Illinois throughout his 40-year career in education; and

WHEREAS, Dominic Belmonte taught English for 20 years at York Community High School in Elmhurst, where he served as chairman of the English department and received one of the first Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching; and

WHEREAS, Since 1987, Dominic Belmonte has advanced the profession of teaching and deepened the learning of students as a member and chairman of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Dominic Belmonte co-created the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program, which is now the Golden Apple Foundation's largest program, providing advanced teacher preparation and mentoring both during and after college to ensure lasting success in challenging teaching environments; and

WHEREAS, After joining the Golden Apple staff as Director

1 of Teacher Preparation in 1996, Dominic Belmonte co-created the
2 GATE (Golden Apple Teacher Education) program, an alternative
3 pathway to teacher certification for mid-career adults seeking
4 a career in teaching elementary school or secondary math or
5 science; he co-wrote and advocated for the enactment of
6 Illinois School Code Section 21-5b to allow alternative teacher
7 certification; and

8 WHEREAS, Dominic Belmonte has served as Chief Executive
9 Officer of the Golden Apple Foundation since 2006, advancing
10 Golden Apple's mission to inspire, develop, and support teacher
11 and school leader excellence in Illinois, especially in
12 schools-of-need; under his leadership, the organization has
13 significantly grown its programs and improved educational
14 outcomes for thousands of students across the State of
15 Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to leading Golden Apple, Dominic
17 Belmonte has served on the board of directors for the Academy
18 for Urban School Leadership; and

19 WHEREAS, Dominic Belmonte is the author of two books,
20 "Teaching from the Deep End" and "Teaching on Solid Ground"; he
21 has a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the
22 University of Illinois Chicago, and an honorary doctorate from
23 St. Xavier University; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 recognize the many ways in which Dominic V. Belmonte's
4 leadership and vision have positively transformed teaching and
5 learning in our State, and we thank him for his service and
6 tireless dedication to improving educational outcomes for all
7 children; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Dominic Belmonte as a symbol of our esteem and
10 respect.