



HR0291

LRB101 12107 MST 59666 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone events in the lives of Illinois citizens; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sara Rusch is retiring in May of 2019 after 11 years as Regional Dean of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP); and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch became the first women to serve as Regional Dean of UICOMP in 2008; in her first four years, she was able to eliminate existing debt and brought campus operations out of deficit spending; she converted UICOMP into a four-year institution, which resulted in a vast increase in physician residents and included the establishment of a new residency in psychiatry with UnityPoint Health Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch created five new fellowship training programs with OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonary critical care, hospice and palliative care, and simulation; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch oversaw the completion of the 24,000 square foot Cancer Research Center addition at UICOMP as well as the extensive remodeling of existing classrooms including

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1 the new human cadaver anatomy lab; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch's extraordinary dedication to medicine  
3 and the Peoria community has been recognized with numerous  
4 accolades; she was named UIC Woman of the Year and Faculty  
5 Member of the Year; she received the Athena International  
6 Leadership Award and the UIC Dean's Award for Excellence in  
7 Healthcare; in addition, she was inducted into the Laureate  
8 Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame and received the  
9 highest distinction of Mastership in the American College of  
10 Physicians; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch was born in Wisconsin and attended  
12 University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her  
13 Bachelor of Arts and medical degree; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch moved to Peoria in 1978 for residency  
15 training in internal medicine at OSF Saint Francis Center;  
16 after she completed her training, she entered private practice,  
17 where she cared for patients while concurrently teaching in the  
18 residency; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch became Chair of Medicine for OSF  
20 HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and UICOMP in 1993; she  
21 held the role for 15 years before becoming the Regional Dean of  
22 UICOMP; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch looks forward to spending her time with  
2 her husband, Tom Cusack, and their seven children and 11  
3 grandchildren; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Rusch has excelled as a student, professional,  
5 mentor, businesswoman, and leader; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we congratulate Dr. Sara Rusch on her retirement and wish her  
9 the best in all her future endeavors; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Dr. Rusch as a symbol of our respect and esteem.