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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Norma Bernsohn, nee Raphael, who passed away on April 15, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Norma Bernsohn was born in New York City in 1917; she attended Brooklyn College until her marriage to Joseph Bernsohn in 1940; and

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WHEREAS, After ten years as a mother and wife, Norma Bernsohn attended Chicago Teachers College, where she obtained her degree in education; she then taught in several elementary schools around Chicago, including schools in the Cabrini Green area; during her tenure at York Center, she pioneered the concept of a parenting program so that home life could compliment the school experience for children; she was also critical in the development of one of the first Head Start programs in the country at Jane Addams Hull House and was one of the forces behind the annual "Week of the Young Child"; and

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WHEREAS, After earning her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Development from Northwestern University, Norma Bernsohn had a career educating future teachers at both Malcolm X College and Truman College in Chicago; and

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1           WHEREAS, Norma Bernsohn's teaching style and innovative  
2 methods undoubtedly inspired and influenced hundreds of  
3 excellent and dedicated educators teaching throughout the  
4 country today; and

5           WHEREAS, In her later years, Norma Bernsohn enjoyed  
6 spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren,  
7 spending winters in Ajijic, Mexico with her husband, square  
8 dancing, enjoying her home in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, and  
9 traveling around the world; and

10           WHEREAS, Norma Bernsohn will be remembered by all who knew  
11 and loved her for her vibrant spirit, positive attitude and  
12 unending energy, which was felt by all in her presence;  
13 therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
16 her family and friends, the passing of Norma Bernsohn; and be  
17 it further

18           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Norma Bernsohn as an expression of  
20 our sympathy.