



HR1456

LRB096 24192 GRL 43635 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dr.
4 Brenda Parks-Johnson, who passed away on August 10, 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson was born on March 23, 1968,
6 in Chicago; her parents were John and Bessie Parks; she married
7 Hampton Simmons, whom she affectionately called "Boo"; and

8 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson attended Langley Avenue
9 Church of God and was baptized at an early age; she received
10 high marks as a student and graduated with honors from Kenwood
11 High School and received a scholarship to attend Northwestern
12 University, where she was a proud member of the Delta Sigma
13 Theta Sorority; after 4 years of studying, she earned her
14 bachelor's degree in psychology from Northwestern; she
15 subsequently worked as a social worker with Ada S. McKinley
16 until she entered the University of Illinois College of
17 Medicine; and

18 WHEREAS, After graduating from medical school, Brenda
19 Parks-Johnson served as a physician in the combined Family
20 Practice and Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Oschner
21 Foundation Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana; during her
22 tenure there, she earned many honors and awards and was board

1 certified in Family Medicine, PALS, BLS, ACLS, and ACLS
2 Instructor; as a medical student and resident, she went on
3 medical missions to St. Lucia and Ghana, bringing her skills
4 and expertise to those overseas without access to healthcare;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson began her medical career at
7 the Circle Family Care Network in Chicago as a physician and
8 co-director of the Maternal Child Health Program; she then
9 served as a physician for Family Christian Health Center in
10 Harvey for a short time before she became ill; she concurrently
11 served as an on-call physician at the Resurrection Immediate
12 Care Center in Elmwood Park and as a physician at PCC Wellness
13 Center in Oak Park, where she provided high risk obstetrical
14 services and comprehensive family practice care; she also
15 performed deliveries and caesareans at West Suburban Hospital
16 in Oak Park; and

17 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson was well-known by her
18 patients as a "doctor's doctor" who became personally involved
19 in their lives; she donated her own clothes and baby gear to
20 her patients who needed them and answered pages from patients
21 who insisted on her help even while on maternity leave for both
22 of her pregnancies and during her illness; and

23 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson was an active member of her

1 community; she participated in numerous outreach programs in
2 the Austin community, most recently as a member of a panel
3 discussion focused on the needs and disparities of women and
4 communities of color hosted by the Westside Health Authority
5 and the African American Leadership Council; and

6 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson is survived by her devoted
7 husband, Hampton Simmons III; her daughters, Kara and Shayla;
8 her father, John Parks Jr.; her brothers, Joel and Willie
9 Curtis (Debbie); her brother-in-law and sister in-law, Dr.
10 Allan and Denelia Dunlap; her father-in-law and mother in-law,
11 Mr. Hampton and Mrs. Eindie Simmons, Jr.; her nephews, Justin,
12 Austin, and Joseph Parks; her many aunts and uncles; her
13 numerous godchildren; and her many wonderful friends; and

14 WHEREAS, Brenda Parks-Johnson will be remembered by all who
15 knew and loved her as an inspirational, faithful, and
16 compassionate wife, mother, friend, and doctor; therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of Dr.
21 Brenda Parks-Johnson; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Brenda Parks-Johnson as an
2 expression of our sympathy.