



HR1549

LRB096 24549 GRL 44370 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor our esteemed colleague, Illinois State Representative Careen Gordon, for her years of dedicated service to the people of Illinois and the Illinois House of Representatives; and

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WHEREAS, Careen Gordon was born and raised in Morris; she is the youngest of the 3 children of her loving parents, Tom and the late Diane Gordon, from whom she learned the value of hard work, dedication, and giving back to the community; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Gordon graduated from Morris Community High School in 1990; she went on to attend Purdue University and the University of Illinois, earning 2 bachelor's degrees in 1994; she returned home to begin practicing law after graduating from John Marshall Law School in 1998; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Gordon began her career in public service as a prosecutor in the Grundy County State's Attorney's Office; she later served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Kankakee and Will Counties; due to her success as a local prosecutor, Gordon was recruited by Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan to serve as an Assistant Attorney General in 2000; and

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1 WHEREAS, As a prosecutor, Representative Gordon fought on
2 behalf of crime victims, working both to bring their attackers
3 to justice and to ensure their victims' future safety; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Gordon was appointed to serve in
5 the Illinois House of Representatives in December of 2003 to
6 complete the term of retiring Representative Mary Kay O'Brien;
7 she was first elected to serve as the State Representative of
8 the 75th District in November of 2004; she subsequently won
9 re-election in 2006 and 2008; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Gordon used her knowledge as a
11 prosecutor to stand up for victims of violence and crack down
12 on the most dangerous criminals in Illinois; she spearheaded
13 legislation to require lifetime registration for the most
14 dangerous sex offenders and fought to increase penalties for
15 methamphetamine producers; she also worked to increase
16 penalties for domestic abusers and routinely worked with law
17 enforcement to make it easier to track, catch, and prosecute
18 criminals of all kinds; and

19 WHEREAS, Growing up in a working family, Representative
20 Gordon always understood the need to create and keep jobs in
21 Illinois; she led the charge to restore important sales tax
22 exemptions for manufacturing and trucking companies to help
23 spur their growth and fought against attempts to increase taxes

1 and fees on businesses and individuals; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Gordon made education one of her
3 top priorities; she frequently brought home more money for
4 rapidly growing schools in her district and worked to make sure
5 that more education dollars were going into the classroom; and

6 WHEREAS, During hard economic times, Representative Gordon
7 led by example, repeatedly cutting her own pay and donating
8 salary increases to charitable causes in her district; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Gordon has worked extremely hard
10 to provide the people of Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle,
11 and Will Counties with effective representation in
12 Springfield; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 thank Representative Careen Gordon for her service to the State
16 of Illinois and wish her great success in all of her future
17 endeavors; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Representative Careen Gordon as a symbol of the
20 esteem and respect we have for our colleague and friend.