



HR1058

LRB097 21497 GRL 69588 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis and the
3 Illinois House of Representatives congratulate Dr. Jo Ann
4 Roberts on the occasion of her retirement as Intervention
5 Officer and Education Manager for Turnaround Schools for
6 Chicago Public School District 299 on June 30, 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts earned her bachelor's and master's
8 degrees in speech pathology from Wayne State University in
9 Detroit, Michigan; she subsequently earned her Ph.D. in
10 educational administration from Northwestern University in
11 1977 and pursued post-doctoral work at Harvard University
12 (1991), the University of Southern California (1992), and
13 Motorola University (1997); and

14 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts began her educational career as a
15 speech and language pathologist for Chicago Public School
16 District 299 in 1971; in 1978, she became the Director of the
17 District 299 Speech and Language Pathology Department's
18 Special Needs Unit; in 1988, she relocated to Rock Island/Milan
19 School District 41, where she became the Director of Special
20 Services and Assistant to the Superintendent; in 1990, she
21 became the Superintendent of Schools for the Muskegon Heights
22 Public Schools in Muskegon Heights, Michigan; in 1993, she
23 moved back to CPS District 299 to serve as Chief Deputy

1 Superintendent; that following year, she accepted the position
2 of Principal at Charles Wacker Elementary School; in 1996, she
3 was chosen to serve as Superintendent of Hazel Crest School
4 District 152 1/2, where she served until 1998; and

5 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts began serving as the Intervention
6 Officer and Education Manager for Turnaround Schools for CPS
7 District 299 in 1998; in that capacity, she worked to improve
8 the academic and fiscal affairs of schools that showed poor
9 performance on State and national achievement tests; under her
10 direction, most of the schools in question were removed from
11 probationary status within 2 years; during her tenure at
12 District 299, she also collaborated with parents, communities,
13 and school leaders to create school development plans, improved
14 instructional services and academic scores within the
15 district, created and implemented suitable budgets for
16 academic initiatives, and provided support for the district's
17 intervention teams and teachers on effective instructional
18 practices; and

19 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts is the author of numerous
20 publications, including "Legitimacy of the Black Language"
21 (1972), "Speech and Language for the Learning Disabilities
22 Child" (1973), "Learning to Talk" (1974), "Speech Correction
23 for the Educable Mentally Handicapped Child" (1974), and "An
24 Overview of the Chicago Board of Education Title I Program for

1 Speech and Language" (1980); and

2 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts has been the recipient of numerous
3 awards and accolades, including the Who's Who in the Midwest
4 designation (1978 - present), the Who's Who in American Women
5 designation (1980 - present), the International Who's Who in
6 Community Services designation (1982 - present), the Black
7 Achievement Award for Excellence in Education from the Q.C.
8 Chapter of Blacks in Government (1990), the Who's Who in the
9 World designation (1995 - present), and the Who's Who in
10 Education designation (1997 - present); she was also featured
11 in a New York Times article in 2010 and was honored by the
12 Rainbow PUSH Coalition as an Outstanding Educator in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, Jo Ann Roberts serves as a model of hard work,
14 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
15 Illinois; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Dr. Jo Ann Roberts on the occasion of her
19 retirement and wish her many happy and healthy retirement
20 years; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Jo Ann Roberts as a symbol of our esteem and

HR1058

-4-

LRB097 21497 GRL 69588 r

1 respect.