



HR1386

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor our friend and colleague,  
4 Illinois State Representative Renée Kosel, for her years of  
5 dedicated service to the people of the State of Illinois; and

6           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel earned her bachelor's degree  
7 in education from Western Illinois University; and

8           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel enjoyed a career as a school  
9 teacher in both Chicago and New Lenox, where she gained a keen  
10 understanding of the Illinois education system and the need for  
11 improvement; and

12           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel and her husband, Dr. Alfred  
13 Kosel, are long-time residents of New Lenox and have 3  
14 children, Janine Valkema, Christopher, and Eric; she and her  
15 husband have been blessed with 9 grandchildren; and

16           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel has been an active member of  
17 her community working towards its betterment, having served on  
18 the Lincoln-Way Central High School Board of Education and  
19 served on the Lincoln-Way Foundation for Educational  
20 Excellence Board of Directors; and

1           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel and her husband are members  
2 of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Lenox, and she is a member of  
3 the New Lenox Rotary Club; she currently serves with the  
4 Advocate Christ Medical Center Cancer Institute Foundation  
5 Board, the Alliance of the Illinois State Dental Society, and  
6 the Illinois State Rifle Association; she is also a past member  
7 of the Frankfort, Homer Township, Mokena, and New Lenox  
8 Chambers of Commerce, and is a current member of the Mokena  
9 Woman's Club; additionally, she serves as a member of Advocate  
10 Christ Medical Center Governing Council, serving as Chair from  
11 2007 to 2009 and currently serving as Vice-Chair; she also  
12 serves as a Scholarship America Advisory Board member; and

13           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel was first elected to serve as  
14 State Representative on November 5, 1996, taking office in  
15 January of 1997; and

16           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel served as Assistant  
17 Republican Leader during her tenure, bringing the voice of her  
18 legislative district to the forefront of important issues; and

19           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel honorably represented the  
20 people of New Lenox, Mokena, Tinley Park, Frankfort, Homer  
21 Glen, Joliet, Lockport, and Orland Park; and

22           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel served with distinction on

1 many committees, caucuses, and task forces, including Tollway  
2 Oversight, Health Care Licenses, International Trade &  
3 Commerce, and Executive Committees, and as Republican  
4 Spokesperson for the Museums, Arts, & Cultural Enhancement  
5 Committee; she was a member of the Illinois Historic  
6 Preservation Caucus, the Local Government Caucus, the  
7 Environmental Legislative Caucus, the Fire Prevention Caucus,  
8 the Manufacturing Caucus, the Education Caucus, the Illinois  
9 House Special Committee on the Illinois State Toll Highway  
10 Authority, the Tax Relief Task Force, the Gambling Reform Task  
11 Force, the Education Task Force, the Project Success Oversight  
12 Committee, the Teacher Health Insurance Funding Task Force, the  
13 Jobs Creation Task Force, the Oral Health Summit Steering  
14 Committee, the Illinois-Liaoning (China) Sister State  
15 Committee, the House Republican Education Working Group, and  
16 the American Legislative Exchange Council Public Safety and  
17 Elections Task Force; and

18 WHEREAS, During much of the 2000 to 2010 decade,  
19 Representative Kosel's district was one of the fastest-growing  
20 suburban areas in the United States, leading to major  
21 challenges for her and her office; she rose to the occasion and  
22 successfully met the needs of a rapidly-growing constituency;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Kosel always put the wishes of her

1 legislative district first by being a fierce advocate for  
2 fiscal responsibility, consistently voting to balance the  
3 State budget and hold the line on taxes to protect the citizens  
4 of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Kosel has received many awards  
6 during her years in office, including the American Legislative  
7 Exchange Council Legislator of the Year in 2008, the ARC of  
8 Illinois Legislator of the Year, the Illinois Home Health Care  
9 Council Legislator of the Year, the Advocates United Legislator  
10 of the Year in 1999 and 2003, the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce  
11 Legislator of the Year, the Illinois Farm Bureau's Friend of  
12 Agriculture in 2002, 2006, and 2010, the Employment Law  
13 Council's Job Defenders Award, the South Suburban Park &  
14 Recreation Professional Association's Legislator of the Year  
15 in 2002, the Illinois Association for Career and Technical  
16 Education 2005 Friend of Career and Technical Education, and  
17 both the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Champion of Free  
18 Enterprise Award and Champion of Small Business Award; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Kosel has worked tirelessly for  
20 the residents of her legislative district, sponsoring key  
21 pieces of legislation during her tenure, including a tax rebate  
22 for homeowners, expanding the Circuit Breaker Program, the  
23 "Bill of Rights" for property owners, and a waiting list bill  
24 for the disabled; and

1           WHEREAS, Representative Kosel has always placed education  
2 as her highest legislative priority; she fought for increased  
3 funding for our local schools and sponsored initiatives to  
4 improve school safety and reduce classroom sizes; she sponsored  
5 legislation to reform School Superintendents' retirement plans  
6 and was instrumental in enacting the School Construction  
7 Program; and

8           WHEREAS, During her 18 years in the Illinois House of  
9 Representatives, Representative Kosel served as the Chief  
10 Sponsor and Co-Sponsor on countless bills that have improved  
11 the lives of those living within her legislative district and  
12 the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we honor our friend and colleague Illinois State Representative  
16 Renée Kosel for her years of dedicated service to the people of  
17 this great State and wish her great success and happiness in  
18 her future endeavors; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Representative Kosel and her family as a symbol of  
21 our esteem, respect, and gratitude.