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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, A McKinsey and Company study entitled "Women  
3 Matter" showed that companies where women are most strongly  
4 represented at board or top-management levels are also the  
5 companies that perform the best; companies with 3 or more women  
6 in senior management functions score more highly, on average,  
7 on the organizational performance profile than companies with  
8 no women at the top, and performance increases significantly  
9 once a certain critical mass is attained -- specifically, when  
10 there are at least 3 women on management committees with an  
11 average membership of 10 people; and

12           WHEREAS, An Oklahoma State University study found that  
13 board diversity, including diversity with respect to gender and  
14 ethnicity, is associated with improved financial value; the  
15 study also found a significant positive relationship between  
16 the fraction of women or minorities on the board and firm  
17 value; and

18           WHEREAS, A report entitled "Women Directors on Corporate  
19 Boards" found that gender diversity on corporate boards  
20 contributes to more effective corporate governance and to  
21 positive governance outcomes through a variety of board  
22 processes as well as through individual interactions; that  
23 women directors contribute to important firm-level outcomes as

1 they play direct roles as leaders and mentors, as well as  
2 indirect roles as symbols of opportunity for other women, and  
3 inspire those women to achieve and stay with their firms; and  
4 that more recognition is needed for the valuable contribution  
5 of women directors to firm value; and

6 WHEREAS, Credit Suisse conducted a 6-year global research  
7 study, commencing in 2006, of more than 2,000 companies  
8 worldwide that showed that women on boards improve business  
9 performance by key metrics, including stock performance, as  
10 demonstrated by the fact that companies with a market  
11 capitalization of more than \$10 billion, whose boards have  
12 women, outperformed shares of comparable businesses with  
13 all-male boards by 26%; and

14 WHEREAS, The Credit Suisse report included the following  
15 findings: (1) there has been a greater correlation between  
16 stock performance and the presence of women on a board since  
17 the financial crisis in 2008; (2) companies with women on their  
18 boards significantly outperformed others when the recession  
19 occurred; (3) companies with women on their boards tend to be  
20 somewhat risk-averse and carry less debt, on average; and (4)  
21 net income growth for companies with women on their boards  
22 averaged 14% over a 6-year period, compared with 10% for those  
23 with no women directors; and

1           WHEREAS, According to the study entitled "Women Directors  
2 on Corporate Boards: From Tokenism to Critical Mass" and a  
3 report entitled, "Critical Mass on Corporate Boards: Why Three  
4 or More Women Enhance Governance", attaining critical mass,  
5 going from one or 2 women directors to at least 3 women  
6 directors, creates an environment where women are no longer  
7 seen as outsiders and are able to influence the content and  
8 process of board discussions more substantially, and boards of  
9 directors need to have at least 3 women to enable them to  
10 interact and exercise an influence on the working style,  
11 processes, and tasks of the board, in turn positively affecting  
12 the level of organizational innovation within the firm; and

13           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has seen a slight uptick in  
14 the percentage of women on corporate boards; in 2013, 17.5% of  
15 the corporate boards in the State included women, and in 2014,  
16 that percentage rose to 17.7; therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 acknowledge that the body of evidence to date concludes that  
20 companies perform better when their boards of directors and  
21 executive leadership include women and that the State of  
22 Illinois has a significant stake in protecting the shareholders  
23 of publicly held companies as well as in setting policies that  
24 enable such companies to perform better; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we encourage equitable and diverse gender  
2 representation on corporate boards of directors and urge that,  
3 within the next 3 years: (1) every publicly held corporation in  
4 Illinois with 9 or more seats on its board of directors have a  
5 minimum of 3 women on its board; (2) every publicly held  
6 corporation in Illinois with at least 5 but fewer than 9 seats  
7 on its board of directors have a minimum of 2 women on its  
8 board; and (3) every publicly held corporation in Illinois with  
9 fewer than 5 seats on its board of directors have a minimum of  
10 one woman on its board; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to Judi Spaletto, Ph.D., Chicago Chapter Chair of  
13 WOB2020.