



HR1260

LRB099 21922 MST 48884 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Tony Paulauski on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski has devoted his 45-year career to advocating for children and adults with developmental disabilities; he has made it his priority to educate and inform as many people as possible on the importance of issues such as providing inclusive community support for individuals with developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski started his career serving as a Special Education teacher for one year at Wyanet High School; he served 19 years as Executive Director of LARC in Lansing from 1972 to 1991 and 25 years as the Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois from 1991 to 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski was instrumental in the creation of many bills that benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities, including the bill to prohibit the death penalty for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski was instrumental in the creation of

1 several bills dealing with transition plans for students with
2 disabilities, including a recent one that requires at least one
3 goal in independent living skills; he worked on legislation on
4 Early Intervention and Brittany's Law which required school
5 districts to allow students in special education who have
6 completed four years of high school to participate in the
7 graduation ceremony with their peers; he worked on the
8 delegation of rights for Special Ed students who reach majority
9 age and he was instrumental in creating Prioritization of
10 Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS); and

11 WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski worked on legislation to create the
12 Disability Services Act of 2003; he worked on legislation to
13 protect persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities
14 who are victims of sexual assault by allowing them to testify
15 in court by closed circuit TV; he worked on legislation on
16 Employment First for individuals with developmental
17 disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski served on numerous boards,
19 commissions, and committees and was appointed Chairman of the
20 Pace Blue Ribbon Committee on Paratransit; he served on the
21 Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force; and

22 WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski is considered statewide and
23 nationally, to be a strong advocate for people with

1 developmental disabilities and their families; he is always
2 reminding caregivers, families, and legislators what is most
3 important in providing services for individuals with
4 disabilities: community inclusion, independence, and choice;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Tony Paulauski is married to Barbara Paulauski;
7 they have two children, Tony and Andy, and four grandchildren;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Tony Paulauski on his retirement as Executive
12 Director of The Arc of Illinois and we wish him continued
13 success and happiness in the future; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Tony Paulauski as a symbol of our esteem and
16 respect.