



SR2509

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of former Illinois State Representative Vincent A. "Vince" Persico, who passed away on July 21, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Persico was born on December 9, 1948 in Oak Park; he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 1971 and a master's degree from Northern Illinois University in 1986; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Persico instructed young people in history and government as a Hadley Junior High School teacher for many years until 1988; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Persico was an involved member of the Glen Ellyn community; he was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Glenbard West Booster Club, the Hadley Junior High School PTA, and many other clubs and groups, and was active in Glen Ellyn boys baseball leagues; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Persico began his life of public service by joining the boards of directors of Glen Ellyn Family Services and the Milton Township Committee on Youth; he also became a Trustee for Milton Township, which in the 1980s was a

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1 fast-growing township that was enjoying many challenges and
2 opportunities; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Persico chose to run for election
4 to the Illinois House of Representatives; he sought the seat
5 and lost twice, in 1986 and in 1988, before winning unanimous
6 election to the House in November of 1990 without
7 general-election opposition; in January of 1991, he took his
8 seat in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he would
9 serve for 11 years; and

10 WHEREAS, As a member of the Republican Party,
11 Representative Persico quickly showed an aptitude for
12 bipartisan committee work, serving with colleagues from both
13 parties on the House Committees on Aging, Environment and
14 Energy, Financial Institutions, and Labor; when he began his
15 service in the Illinois General Assembly, the State laws
16 governing relations between Illinois residents and regulated
17 utilities had become suboptimal, especially in the areas of
18 electricity and telecommunications; and

19 WHEREAS, As a key member of the House Telecommunications
20 Rewrite Committee, Representative Persico helped to rewrite
21 the Illinois Telecommunications Law; he played a major role in
22 opening up Illinois telecommunications services to
23 consumer-friendly competition and in moving the law from a

1 paradigm based on wireline telecommunications toward the
2 wireless services of the future; the cell phone shops and
3 advertisements that have become ubiquitous features of
4 Illinois life are a tribute to the success of his work; and

5 WHEREAS, As the selected co-chairperson of the Electric
6 Utility Deregulation Committee, Representative Persico played
7 a major role in deregulating supplies of Illinois electricity;
8 one of the most significant legislative achievements was the
9 Illinois Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law
10 of 1997; developed with the help of chosen colleagues, the law
11 restructured the customer side of the Illinois electric utility
12 industry to offer Illinois customers a choice between electric
13 suppliers while retaining the right of owners of the "last
14 mile" of electric delivery wire to earn a fair return on their
15 investments; and

16 WHEREAS, In January of 2002, Representative Persico
17 retired from the Illinois House of Representatives to join the
18 private sector; in the private sector, he remained a familiar
19 figure in the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, educating
20 lawmakers on a wide variety of issues; and

21 WHEREAS, In late 2015, Representative Persico was
22 diagnosed with terminal brain cancer; during his final months
23 of life, he and his wife, Donna, set an example of courage and

1 fortitude for the members of the Illinois House of
2 Representatives, including his former colleagues; therefore,
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we pay tribute to the
6 memory of former Illinois State Representative Vincent A.
7 "Vince" Persico and his life of courage, hard work, and public
8 service; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation for the support
10 given to Representative Persico by his wife, Donna, and his
11 son, Derek Persico, House Republican Senior Legal Counselor and
12 District Office Director in the office of House Republican
13 Leader Jim Durkin; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the family of Representative Persico as a symbol
16 of our sympathy and appreciation for his service to the State
17 of Illinois.