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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus on the occasion of her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus has dedicated more than four decades of her life to spiritual leadership, community service, and trailblazing advocacy, culminating in 42 years of service in Park Forest and Homewood; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus became one of the first 20 women in the world, and the first in Illinois, to be ordained as a rabbi in 1979, breaking historic barriers and opening doors for future generations of women in religious leadership; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus first served congregations in Michigan and Kankakee, Illinois before joining Congregation Beth Sholom in Park Forest in 1987, later leading its mergers with B'nai Yehuda and Am Echad to form Shir Tikvah, where she continued to serve with warmth, wisdom, and grace; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus' career has included service as a hospital chaplain, congregational leader, and community advocate, all while taking on the responsibilities of a working mother who balanced professional leadership with

1 devoted family care; and

2 WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus, a native of Chicago's South Side,
3 has been a steadfast advocate for inclusion, equity, and
4 family, often drawing inspiration from her own role models and
5 never shying away from naming the challenges of gender
6 discrimination she faced and overcame with courage and
7 clarity; and

8 WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus' legacy includes not only her
9 leadership within the synagogue but also her advocacy for
10 justice, interfaith dialogue, and community engagement across
11 the South Suburbs and the greater Chicagoland area; and

12 WHEREAS, Rabbi Dreyfus's trailblazing leadership, tireless
13 service, and, most importantly, her extraordinary impact on
14 her congregation and community will continue to have a
15 positive impact on all the lives she has touched; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus on her retirement, thank
20 her for her dedicated service to her congregation and
21 community, and wish her the best at the close of her
22 distinguished career; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Rabbi Dreyfus as a symbol of our esteem and
3 respect.