



SR0046

LRB104 10256 LAW 20330 r

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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 Sara Marie Bernhard, who passed away on January 17, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard, the daughter of Richard and Karen (Braun) Henkelman, was born in Effingham on January 6, 1981; she married Zach Bernhard at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on July 17, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard was a teacher and coach who loved children and worked to inspire each and everyone of them to reach their fullest potential; her impact extended far beyond the classroom or the court, as she made a lasting impression on everyone she encountered; and

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WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard's family was the center of her world, and her love for them was immeasurable; she could often be found attending her sons' motocross events on weekends, riding horses with her daughter, or spending time at the volleyball gym, where she coached and cheered for her daughter; and

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WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard found joy and solace in the simple things, including walking along the ocean edge, feeling the

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1 breeze, and listening to the waves crash, or tending to her  
2 flowers; and

3 WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard was a beloved wife, mother,  
4 daughter, sister, teacher, coach, and friend who brought  
5 warmth, light, and positivity wherever she went; she leaves  
6 behind a legacy of love, dedication, undeniable faith, and  
7 unshakable strength; and

8 WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard was preceded in death by her  
9 grandparents, "Bud" and Millie Braun and Willard and Helen  
10 Henkelman, and her aunt, Mary Hopkins; and

11 WHEREAS, Sara Bernhard is survived by her husband, Zach  
12 Bernhard; her children, Ethan Richard, Emma Marie, Jaxon Paul,  
13 and Brock Zachary; her parents; her siblings, Michelle  
14 Boatman, Amy (Matt) Dammerman, and Kristie (Mike) Bailey; her  
15 parents-in-law, Paul and Patti Bernhard; her siblings-in-law,  
16 Ashley (Adam) Bradshaw and Kanan Bernhard; and her nieces and  
17 nephews, Jacklynn, Jacy, Kassy, Taylor, Louis, Millie, and  
18 Ellie; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
21 Sara Marie Bernhard and extend our sincere condolences to her  
22 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Sara Bernhard as an expression of  
4 our deepest sympathy.