



SR0799

LRB104 21902 LAW 37788 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Jerry Kruse, M.D. on the occasion of his
4 retirement as Dean and Provost of Southern Illinois University
5 (SIU) School of Medicine after more than four decades of
6 service to medicine, education, and the people of Illinois;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse has devoted his career to advancing
9 rural health, primary care, medical education, and
10 community-based medicine, shaping generations of physicians
11 and healthcare leaders across the State of Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse began his career as a family physician
13 in Quincy, where he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to
14 serving vulnerable populations and addressing healthcare
15 challenges beyond the walls of the clinic, believing deeply
16 that healthcare must respond to the lived realities of
17 patients and communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Throughout his leadership, Dr. Kruse championed a
19 vision of healthcare and medical education grounded in
20 effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and enjoyment, a philosophy
21 that became a guiding framework for SIU School of Medicine and
22 its regional partnerships; and

1 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Kruse's guidance, SIU School of
2 Medicine expanded access to care throughout central and
3 southern Illinois through innovative partnerships, rural
4 residency programs, federally qualified health center
5 collaborations, telehealth expansion, maternal and child
6 health services, behavioral health initiatives, and integrated
7 community care models; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse led the institution through some of the
9 most challenging periods in modern healthcare history,
10 including the Illinois state budget impasse, unprecedented
11 shifts in healthcare financing, and the global COVID-19
12 pandemic, as well as health disparities and equitable care
13 solutions, providing steady, compassionate, and visionary
14 leadership during times of uncertainty; and

15 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kruse helped
16 guide the SIU System and communities throughout Illinois with
17 balanced, science-based leadership that protected both
18 educational continuity and public health while preserving
19 workforce capacity and institutional stability; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse strengthened SIU School of Medicine's
21 mission as a regional and rural medical school by expanding
22 learner pathways, increasing opportunities for students from

1 underserved communities, and investing in partnerships that
2 improved healthcare access across dozens of counties
3 throughout Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Kruse's stewardship, SIU Medicine grew
5 into a more integrated, mission-driven enterprise, serving
6 hundreds of thousands of patients annually while enhancing
7 clinical operations, strategic planning, population health
8 initiatives, and community engagement; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse's leadership has been marked not only
10 by innovation and institutional growth but also by humility,
11 collaboration, mentorship, and a profound respect for the
12 faculty, staff, students, residents, healthcare workers, and
13 community partners who share in the mission of improving lives
14 through medicine and education; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Kruse leaves behind a legacy defined by
16 resilience, compassion, and transformational leadership, the
17 impact of which will continue to be felt in clinics,
18 hospitals, classrooms, and communities throughout Illinois for
19 generations to come; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Jerry
22 Kruse, M.D. on his retirement as Dean and Provost of Southern

1 Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine, and we extend
2 our deepest gratitude for his extraordinary service,
3 leadership, and enduring contributions to the health and
4 well-being of the people of Illinois; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Dr. Kruse as an expression of our appreciation
7 and respect.