



HR1311

LRB100 24056 MST 43160 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate their former colleague,
4 Patricia R. "Patti" Bellock, on her long and distinguished
5 career of public service as a DuPage County Board member, State
6 Representative of the 47th District, and as Director of the
7 Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services; and

8 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock was born Patricia Rigney on October
9 14, 1946 to proud parents, John Rigney and Dorothy Comiskey
10 Rigney, big sister, Mary Sharon, and loving grandmother, Grace
11 Comiskey, owner of the Chicago White Sox; and

12 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock grew up in River Forest and graduated
13 from Saint Norbert College in Wisconsin, where she received a
14 bachelor's degree in history and American government; and

15 WHEREAS, Prior to entering public service, Rep. Bellock
16 taught school in both Fairbanks, Alaska and Milwaukee,
17 Wisconsin and served as vice president of a sports investment
18 firm in the private sector; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock moved to Hinsdale in the early 1970s,
20 where she raised her two daughters, Colleen and Dorothy, and
21 became active in the Downers Grove Township Republican

1 Organization; she was elected as a Precinct Committeeman and
2 volunteered for local candidates and community causes; and

3 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock was elected to the DuPage County
4 Board in 1992 and served with distinction for six years; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1998, Rep. Bellock ran for State Representative
6 and won a competitive four-way Republican primary in the 81st
7 District for the seat being vacated by Rep. Judy Biggert; and

8 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock was elected State Representative in
9 November of 1998 and took the oath of office in January 1999 as
10 a member of the 91st General Assembly, the first of what would
11 ultimately be 10 terms in the Illinois House of
12 Representatives; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout her nearly 20 years as a member of the
14 Illinois House of Representatives, Rep. Bellock was a tireless
15 advocate in the areas of education, juvenile justice,
16 healthcare, developmental disabilities, and mental health; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock's landmark legislation, which
18 reformed the Illinois Medicaid system, the SMART Act, and other
19 legislation addressing mental health parity, MRSA infection
20 control, improving the Amber Alert system, and strengthening
21 child support in Illinois have all been recognized on a

1 national level; and

2 WHEREAS, In October of 2013, Rep. Bellock was appointed
3 Deputy Minority Leader; she was the first woman in Illinois
4 history to hold that position and served until her retirement
5 from the Illinois House of Representatives in July of 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the course of her legislative career, Rep.
7 Bellock served as the Chief Budget Negotiator for the House
8 Republicans, as the Minority Spokeswoman on both the Human
9 Services Committee and the Human Services-Appropriations
10 Committee, and as a member of the Labor & Commerce Committee;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout her legislative career, Rep. Bellock
13 received numerous state and national awards for her role in
14 various community projects and served on several local boards
15 for groups addressing the issues of taxes, substance abuse,
16 Alzheimer's, autism, human services, mental health, Multiple
17 Sclerosis, violence prevention, and the arts; she was named
18 Legislator of the Year by over 20 different associations and
19 organizations; and

20 WHEREAS, Rep. Bellock was appointed to the National Health
21 Care Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators
22 (NCSL) in Washington, D.C. and also served as the Midwest

1 Director for the national group, Women in Government; she
2 chaired the Conference of Women Legislators in Springfield, a
3 bipartisan group of women legislators; and

4 WHEREAS, In July of 2018, Rep. Bellock resigned from the
5 House of Representatives in order to accept an appointment from
6 Governor Rauner to be the new Director of the Illinois
7 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, where she has
8 continued her work on behalf of the State's most vulnerable
9 children, families, and seniors; and

10 WHEREAS, Although we already miss Rep. Bellock's presence
11 as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, we are
12 grateful for her continued service to the people of the State
13 of Illinois and are happy that she will be able to spend more
14 time with her family, especially her beloved grandchildren
15 Will, Grace, Libby, Charlie, and Catherine; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 commend Patricia R. "Patti" Bellock on her distinguished career
19 of public service as a DuPage County Board member, as an
20 Illinois State Representative from 1999-2018, and as Director
21 of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services;
22 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Honorable Patti Bellock as a symbol of our
3 esteem and respect for our former colleague and cherished
4 friend.