



HR0591

LRB100 14375 MST 29154 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Elaine Nekritz on the
4 occasion of her retirement as State Representative for the 57th
5 Legislative District; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz was elected to the House of
7 Representatives in 2002 and began serving in 2003; she has
8 served as an Assistant Majority Leader since the 98th General
9 Assembly, and currently serves as Chair of the House Campaign
10 Finance Subcommittee; she also served as Chair of the House
11 Personnel and Pensions Committee for the 97th, 98th, and 99th
12 General Assemblies, Chair of the House Judiciary-Civil Law
13 Committee for the 97th, 98th, and 99th General Assemblies, and
14 Chair of the House Special Investigating Committee for the 97th
15 General Assembly; she was also a member of the Commission on
16 Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA); and

17 WHEREAS, During her time in office, Rep. Nekritz has worked
18 on significant legislation in the areas of criminal justice
19 reform, the environment, civil liberties, consumer protection,
20 and government reform; throughout her time in the House of
21 Representatives, she has helped mentor new members and
22 advocated for better processes and rules; and

1 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz's other legislative activities
2 include serving as Executive Committee Member of the Council of
3 State Governments Midwest Legislative Conference, Chair of the
4 Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, Chair of the
5 Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development,
6 member of the Council of State Governments Legal Task Force,
7 and fundraising Chair and Co-Chair for the Conference of Women
8 Legislators; and

9 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz has been recognized numerous times
10 for her exemplary service; she received the Criminal Justice
11 Leadership Award from the John Howard Association of Illinois
12 in 2014, the Environmental Leadership Award from the Illinois
13 Environmental Council in 2015, the Dawn Clark Netsch "Straight
14 Talk" Award from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform in
15 2016, and the Richard J. Phelan Profile in Courage Award from
16 Planned Parenthood in 2017; the Northwest Suburban Sierra Club
17 named her Legislator of the Year, and in 2014, Chicago Magazine
18 listed her as #93 on the "100 Most Powerful Chicagoans"; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz's volunteer activities include
20 serving as a board member of the Illinois Women's Institute for
21 Leadership, Chair of the Village of Northbrook Community
22 Relations Commission, member of the Committee on State Public
23 Affairs of the National Council of Jewish Women, board member
24 of American Bicycle Racing, and officer of the Illinois Cycling

1 Association; and

2 WHEREAS, From October of 1982 to August of 1991, Rep.
3 Nekritz worked for Altheimer & Gray in Chicago, where she was
4 named partner in 1989; she worked for Alberto's Cycles in
5 Winnetka from the spring of 1992 to the fall of 1995; from the
6 spring of 1997 to the fall of 2001, she worked as a legislative
7 aide for State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg; and

8 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz was born and raised in Wichita,
9 Kansas and has a brother, John (Melanie) Hodges, and two
10 sisters, Alice (Scott) Skultety and Anne (Tom) Silvers; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1979, Rep. Nekritz graduated magna cum laude
12 with a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University in San Antonio,
13 Texas, where she was awarded Phi Beta Kappa; in 1982, she
14 graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctor from the University of
15 Michigan Law School; and

16 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz is married to Barry Nekritz and has
17 two stepsons, Ed (Wendy) and Mike (Diane), and four
18 grandchildren, Jessica, Matthew, Alyssa, and Erica; her
19 stepdaughter, Felicia, passed away from breast cancer in 1998;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz was a talented gymnast and competed

1 in the 1976 Olympic Trials; in 1996, she competed in the
2 Olympic Trials for track cycling; she continues to stay active
3 and rides bikes when she can, including using Divvy bikes when
4 she works in downtown Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz enjoys cross country skiing during
6 the winter months on the golf course near her home in
7 Northbrook; her taste in books often overlap with her interest
8 in government - biographies, political science, and public
9 policy; she and Barry enjoy traveling, especially European
10 cruises; they also are avid theatergoers with season tickets to
11 the Chicago Shakespeare Theater; they are both avid fans of the
12 Chicago Bears and hold season tickets; she is very fond of a
13 good single malt scotch; and

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Nekritz has always been passionate about
15 environmental issues; on her past two cars, she has limited
16 herself to buying union-made American hybrids; her mother
17 inspired her attitude to the environment by being an early
18 adopter of recycling and other habits that are commonplace now
19 but were radical in 1960s and 1970s Kansas; these habits
20 remained with her and even now one can often see her stoop to
21 pick up a scrap of paper or trash that has been left behind in
22 the Capitol; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 congratulate Elaine Nekritz on her retirement as State
3 Representative for the 57th Legislative District, and we wish
4 her the best in all her future endeavors; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Rep. Nekritz as a symbol of our respect and
7 esteem.