



HR1344

LRB100 24225 ALS 43454 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. K. Michael Welch on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Welch assumed the presidency of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in 2002; and

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WHEREAS, Since becoming President of Rosalind Franklin University, Dr. Welch renamed the University and successfully implemented a full institutional assessment that launched a new mission and vision for the school, integrating the education of all health professions with the goal of enhanced delivery of health care into a model of interprofessional education; he oversaw a new era of investment in infrastructure and initiatives that launched a renaissance in education, clinical care, and discovery; he led the rebuilding of the Board of Trustees upon foundational principles of communication, ownership, and accountability and the election of highly-regarded professionals who restored confidence in the governing body; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Welch concentrated on community engagement and service via the Community Care Connection mobile health

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1 coach, health screening and education, and mentoring outreach
2 by students and faculty and the student-driven
3 Interprofessional Community Clinic; he also focused on health
4 equity and diversifying the healthcare workforce as a means to
5 improving the health of underserved populations; additionally,
6 he led the initiative on building community and clinical
7 partnerships in the quest for improved health and well being;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Welch supported the development of pipelines
10 and pathways, including the nationally recognized INSPIRE
11 program, the Pre-Matriculation Program, and many other efforts
12 to diversify STEM fields and improve care; he oversaw the
13 construction of new buildings and facilities, including
14 student housing, the Gross Anatomy Lab, the Evaluation Center,
15 a new research wing/BSB, the Morningstar Interprofessional
16 Education Center, the Rothstein Warden Centennial Learning
17 Center, and, opening next summer, the Innovation and Research
18 Park; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Welch championed key investments in
20 simulation technology, which offers students and working
21 health professionals and their institutions training to
22 improve diagnosis and safety; he led the establishment of think
23 tanks for research and advocacy; he supported the establishment
24 of the nationally-recognized Center for Lower Extremity

1 Ambulatory Research at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of
2 Podiatric Medicine and the Master Teacher Guild; in 2012, he
3 led the successful Centennial Celebration and Scholarship
4 Campaign; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Welch earned his medical degree at the
6 University of Bristol School of Medicine, United Kingdom and
7 came to the United States in the early 1970s; a neurologist and
8 internationally recognized researcher and expert in brain
9 function and structure in cerebrovascular disease, stroke, and
10 migraine, he is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians;
11 his career has included appointments in England, Australia, and
12 the United States, the latter including Baylor College of
13 Medicine in Houston and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where,
14 as founding chair of the Department of Neurology, he pioneered
15 the use of MRI in studying brain biochemistry; he was the
16 clinician responsible for the overall conduct of the national
17 Institute of Neurological Disorders and the first to establish
18 effectiveness of thrombolysis in acute stroke; he was also the
19 principal investigator of a clinical trial that established
20 statin treatment for secondary stroke prevention; and

21 WHEREAS, Before his tenure at Rosalind Franklin University
22 of Medicine and Science, Dr. Welch was vice chancellor of
23 research at the University of Kansas Medical Center; therefore,
24 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 congratulate Dr. K. Michael Welch on the occasion of his
4 retirement, thank him for his contributions to the health care
5 field, and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Dr. Welch as an expression of our esteem and
9 respect.