



HR0509

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Benjamin  
4 Shepherd on receiving the "2019 Rural Physician of Excellence  
5 Award" from the Illinois Rural Health Association; and

6           WHEREAS, One of the biggest healthcare challenges across  
7 our nation is the shortage of physicians who practice in rural  
8 settings, and there is an especially dire need for increased  
9 mental health services in these underserved areas; and

10           WHEREAS, Dr. Shepherd graduated from the University of  
11 Illinois College of Medicine's Rural Medical Education Program  
12 in 2006; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Shepherd then completed his residency in  
14 Family Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Iowa in  
15 2011; and

16           WHEREAS, Dr. Shepherd began his professional career in the  
17 rural health arena at KSB Hospital in Mt. Morris in 2011; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2011, Dr. Shepherd returned to the University  
19 of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford as an Assistant  
20 Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Family Practice; and

1           WHEREAS, Since 2013, Dr. Shepherd has served the Winnebago  
2 County Sheriff's Office as a staff physician for inmates and,  
3 since 2016, has provided psychiatric counseling to the Illinois  
4 Veterans Home; and

5           WHEREAS, In 2014, Dr. Shepherd joined St. Margaret's Center  
6 for Family Health in Princeton, where he has continued to  
7 provide outpatient family medicine and psychiatric services to  
8 the community; and

9           WHEREAS, Dr. Shepherd's talents are not limited to  
10 medicine, as he is also a very competitive basketball player  
11 and gourmet chef; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we congratulate Dr. Benjamin Shepherd for receiving the "2019  
15 Rural Physician of Excellence Award" from the Illinois Rural  
16 Health Association, and we commend him for his compassion and  
17 dedication to his patients and for filling such a tremendous  
18 void by bringing mental health services to rural settings; and  
19 be it further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to Dr. Shepherd as a symbol of our respect and

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1 esteem.