



SR1603

LRB101 23421 MST 74674 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator Dale Righter has represented the citizens of the 55th Senate District, including parts of Clay, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edwards, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties, with distinction for 18 years; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Righter has had an extraordinary and remarkable career, leaving a lasting legacy in the General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Righter has served with honor in the Illinois Senate since 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Before joining the ranks of Senate Republican lawmakers, Senator Righter first demonstrated his dedication to public service by serving in the Illinois House of Representatives beginning in 1997; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to being elected to the General Assembly, Senator Righter started his career as an associate attorney at Reed, Armstrong, Coffey, Goldbert & Mudge P.C. from 1991 to 1992; he then served as a felony narcotics prosecutor with the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator Righter ended his career in the Senate
2 serving the Senate Republican Caucus as the Caucus Chair,
3 having previously served as Deputy Leader; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Righter served as the Minority Spokesman
5 for the Senate Appropriations I Committee starting in 2016 and
6 was the Minority Spokesman for the Senate Executive Committee;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Righter also served on a number of Senate
9 Committees, such as Appropriations II, Executive Appointments,
10 Human Services, and Insurance; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been a member of the Medicaid
12 Work Group and also a member of the Department of Child and
13 Family Services Work Group; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has developed a reputation for
15 being a powerful and eloquent speaker, serving as the Caucus
16 Floor Leader and acting as the Chief Spokesperson on
17 legislative issues; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Righter was never afraid to tackle the
19 hard issues; and

20 WHEREAS, During his time in the Illinois General Assembly,

1 Senator Righter has worked tirelessly for the taxpayers and
2 businesses of Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been a vocal advocate for
4 fiscal responsibility and has dedicated his time in public
5 service to fighting for responsible spending policies; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Righter was a key player on behalf of the
7 Senate Republican Caucus in past budget negotiations, serving
8 as a lead budgeteer; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been recognized over the years
10 as a champion of free enterprise for his contributions and
11 dedication to encouraging economic opportunities and
12 development in Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Righter sponsored legislation that sought
14 to reduce criminal recidivism; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Righter sought to curb violence and
16 promote public safety in Illinois communities by honorably
17 serving on the Legislative Public Safety Group; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Righter stood up for taxpayers of Illinois
19 by seeking protections for the middle class; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Righter supported bipartisan education
2 funding reform legislation, pushing for more education funding
3 to be directed toward schools in the 55th Senate District and
4 increasing opportunities for students downstate; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been an outspoken pro-life
6 advocate, opposing legislation to expand taxpayer funded
7 abortions; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Righter sponsored legislation expanding
9 newborn medical screenings for families in Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has earned the admiration of his
11 colleagues for his willingness to work with lawmakers on both
12 sides of the aisle and engage in thoughtful debate and
13 discussion on controversial legislation and issues; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Righter graduated from Eastern Illinois
15 University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and earned
16 his law degree from the St. Louis University School of Law in
17 1991; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been actively involved in his
19 church community, including mission trips to Cuba; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has coached cross country and

1 track on a volunteer basis for the past decade; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Righter is a proud and dedicated
3 Cheesehead, unapologetically declaring himself a diehard Green
4 Bay Packers fan; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Righter is also known for his good sense
6 of humor and his frequent snack attacks from his office
7 balcony; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Righter is the proud father of two sons,
9 Jonathan, who is a graduate of the United States Military
10 Academy, an Army Ranger, and a Lieutenant in the United States
11 Army, and Benjamin, who is shortly reporting to Officer
12 Candidate School for the United States Navy before heading to
13 flight training; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Righter is also a proud new grandfather to
15 his beautiful granddaughter, Margaret Marie; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Righter is the proud dog-dad of his rescue
17 canine, Bart; and

18 WHEREAS, With his retirement from the Senate, Senator
19 Righter leaves to begin a new chapter as the Chief of Staff for
20 the Senate Republican Caucus; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has time-and-time again earned
2 the respect of colleagues and staff; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Righter has been an unwavering example of
4 what it means to be a good leader, loyal friend, and dedicated
5 public servant; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Dale
8 Righter for his many years of dedicated service to the people
9 of Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Senator Righter with our best wishes for his
13 future endeavors.