



HR0528

LRB102 20892 LAW 29775 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of  
4 Elizabeth Ann Weidner of Dieterich, who passed away on  
5 September 29, 2021; and

6           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was born to Matthew and  
7 Jennifer (McCabe) Weidner in Effingham on January 2, 2004,  
8 earning the distinction of 1st Baby of the Year at St.  
9 Anthony's Memorial Hospital; she was the second of four  
10 children; she was dubbed Queen Elizabeth by her  
11 great-grandfather Albert, and he affectionately called her his  
12 "Queenie"; and

13           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was diagnosed with Stage 4 High  
14 Risk Neuroblastoma in January 2016, and she underwent numerous  
15 surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, bone marrow transplant,  
16 immunotherapy, clinical trials, and more; she battled this  
17 horrible disease with grace, determination, and strength for  
18 nearly 6 years; during which, she inspired and impacted so  
19 many on the local, state, and national level; and

20           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was crowned Junior Miss  
21 Effingham County Fair in 2017, and she was immensely proud to  
22 wear the crown and to represent Effingham County at many

1 pageants, events, parades, and festivals across the State; she  
2 then started Crowns Fight Cancer to raise money and awareness  
3 in the fight against childhood cancer with the motto "Just a  
4 Girl Changing the World One Rhinestone at a Time"; along with  
5 the help of several clubs, schools, communities, and  
6 businesses, she started an amenity drive, collecting and  
7 donating over 80,000 personal care items to date to Children's  
8 Miracle Network Hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses in  
9 multiple states, helping families like hers by providing items  
10 they may lack during hospital stays and allowing them to focus  
11 on their children; and

12 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was involved in numerous  
13 activities, organizations, and clubs; she was involved in  
14 modified pedal tractor pulls from a young age and competed in  
15 numerous competitions; one year, she was both the Illinois and  
16 Indiana State Champion; she competed at nationals in Mitchell,  
17 South Dakota for many years, pulling at times in excess of 900  
18 pounds; and

19 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner had a passion for dance and  
20 started dance lessons at Jansen's when she was only 3 years  
21 old; she loved all kinds of dance; she was a cheerleader for  
22 the Teutopolis Junior High School for 2 years, cheering her  
23 teams through multiple state appearances; her love for dance  
24 eventually led her to become a Teutopolis High School

1 Pomerette, fulfilling a childhood dream of hers; she was the  
2 Illinois High School Association Spirit of Sport winner in  
3 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was also passionate about  
5 theater and drama; she placed Runner-Up at the Poetry Out Loud  
6 competition in Springfield in 2020, reciting Invictus, Triumph  
7 Like a Girl, and Siblings; she performed in numerous plays at  
8 the Effingham Performance Center, Teutopolis Junior High  
9 School, and Teutopolis High School; she also had one of the  
10 leading parts in the Teutopolis Terquasquicentennial  
11 Celebration; she was preparing for the fall's production at  
12 the time of her passing; and

13 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was a member of the Country  
14 Cousins 4-H Club and other spin clubs; she was involved in  
15 public speaking through 4-H and also exhibited many other  
16 general projects, and she won at the state level for many  
17 years; she showed many different animals throughout the years,  
18 including rabbits, chickens, dogs, cats, and pigs; she also  
19 competed in Master Showmanship; she was named one of four 2021  
20 National 4-H Youth in Action Pillar winners in the area of  
21 Civic Engagement in 2020; most recently, she showed pigs at  
22 the Duquoin State Fair and had the Reserve Grand Champion  
23 Duroc Gilt; and

1           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was also a member of the FFA;  
2 she loved volunteering with the Piglets on Parade exhibit  
3 during the Illinois State Fair, educating the public about the  
4 swine industry; she was a chapter officer for the Teutopolis  
5 FFA chapter and served as reporter and secretary; she was also  
6 a Section 20 officer for 2 years and served as sentinel and  
7 secretary; she participated in many contests throughout the  
8 years, and she won the Section 20 Creed Speak Contest and was  
9 the 2020 State winner for her SAE in Service Learning,  
10 advancing to nationals; she received her State FFA Degree in  
11 2021, a distinction that only the Top 3% of Illinois FFA  
12 members receive; she was working towards her American Degree,  
13 a distinction that only the Top 1% of American FFA members  
14 receive; she wrote many grants to start the hydroponic program  
15 at Teutopolis High School, working with teachers to secure  
16 funding for revamping the courtyards, which will benefit  
17 students at Teutopolis High School; she was also working to  
18 secure funding to build a greenhouse, elevating the FFA  
19 program for students and the community; and

20           WHEREAS, in 2017, Elizabeth Weidner became an advocate for  
21 those battling childhood cancer, and she was a national  
22 spokesperson at many American Cancer Society events; she was  
23 responsible for bringing the Gold Together initiative to  
24 Illinois for the American Cancer Society; she spoke, danced,  
25 and hosted at Curefest in Washington, D.C. many times and

1 pleaded with Congressional leaders to increase funding for  
2 childhood cancer research and ultimately better treatments;  
3 she participated in several childhood cancer caucuses and  
4 Climb the Hill events on Capitol Hill; she was part of a  
5 groundbreaking meeting at the University of Maryland, where  
6 the FDA, medical professionals, parents, and children met to  
7 discuss chemotherapy induced hearing loss; she partnered with  
8 Kids v. Cancer and the American Childhood Cancer Organization  
9 and worked on numerous projects; in the last few years, she  
10 filmed the award-winning The Promise: A Docuseries on  
11 Childhood Cancer and the mini-documentary Switching the  
12 Summit, and she had started working on a third film project in  
13 August; as an individual, she raised nearly \$70,000 for  
14 various cancer organizations over the years and, as part of  
15 various groups, she raised millions for research and family  
16 support programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner earned the distinction of the  
18 Governor's Volunteer Service Award and the national Prudential  
19 Community Spirit Award in 2019; she also highly encouraged  
20 organ and blood product donation, and she never shied away  
21 from giving food to the homeless; and

22 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was a kind, caring, loving,  
23 passionate, and graceful young woman who inspired and  
24 influenced many all over the world; even through the most

1 difficult times, she would brighten a room with her smile; she  
2 had a zest for life and loved spending time with her brothers;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner's legacy will continue through  
5 The Elizabeth Ann Weidner Memorial Scholarship Fund, which has  
6 been established as a way for her servant's heart to continue  
7 giving; and

8 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner was preceded in death by a  
9 sibling angel; her aunt, Kimberly L. McCabe; her cousins,  
10 Derek and Nathan Weidner; her great-grandparents, Albert and  
11 Arvella (Alexander) McCabe, Marion and Sophia (Schwab)  
12 Gasparovich, Raymond and Bernadine (Ochs) Kuenstler, and Royal  
13 and Emma (Buerster) Weidner; and

14 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Weidner is survived by her parents; her  
15 brothers, Ethan (Madilyn Brummer), Eric, and Evan; her  
16 grandparents, Richard and Margaret (Kuenstler) Weidner; her  
17 many, many animals; and her many aunts, uncles, cousins,  
18 friends, pageant sisters, and supporters from afar; therefore,  
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we mourn the passing of Elizabeth Ann Weidner and extend our

1 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
2 and loved her; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the parents of Elizabeth Weidner as an expression  
5 of our deepest sympathy.