



HR1045

LRB102 30111 MST 42339 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate our colleague,
4 Representative Jim Durkin, for his distinguished service to
5 the people of the State of Illinois during his nearly
6 decade-long time as House Republican Leader; and

7 WHEREAS, With a focus on protecting and strengthening
8 families and communities, Leader Durkin has spent his entire
9 career working for the citizens of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin was born into a large Chicago
11 family of eight boys; he was raised in the western suburb of
12 Westchester, and he and all seven of his brothers graduated
13 from Fenwick High School; and

14 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin attended Illinois State University,
15 earning a degree in Criminal Justice, and completed his formal
16 education by receiving his Juris Doctor from the John Marshall
17 Law School; and

18 WHEREAS, Following his graduation from law school, Leader
19 Durkin served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General and
20 continued his public service as an Assistant Cook County
21 State's Attorney; while working as an Assistant State's

1 Attorney, he served in the felony trial and narcotics bureau;
2 he currently practices law in the City of Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, In January 1995, Leader Durkin became an Illinois
4 State Representative in the 44th District; in 2002, he was the
5 Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate; in 2006, he was
6 appointed to fill a vacancy in the 82nd House District; and

7 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin served as the ranking Republican on
8 the Illinois House of Representatives Special Investigation
9 Committee for the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich in 2008
10 and served as the House Manager for the removal of a sitting
11 member of the Illinois House of Representatives in 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, The offices of two members of the Illinois House
13 of Representatives, the Speaker of the Illinois House and the
14 Minority Leader of the Illinois House, are specifically
15 enumerated in Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of
16 Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, In August of 2013, Leader Durkin was unanimously
18 selected by his Republican colleagues to fill the vacancy of
19 House Republican Leader and was officially inaugurated by the
20 full House of Representatives on October 22, 2013; and

21 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Leader Durkin served with

1 three different Illinois Governors of both political parties;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin worked to ensure the State provides
4 a quality education for children across Illinois by creating
5 the Invest in Kids Tuition Tax Credit Program and negotiating
6 the State's education funding formula to ensure equity for all
7 school districts across the state; and

8 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin worked to protect families from
9 polluters by shutting down a toxic sterilization plant in his
10 district and creating the strictest standards for ethylene
11 oxide in the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin continued to fight for lowering
13 property taxes, fixing the State's pension systems and passing
14 ethics reform to hold elected officials accountable; and

15 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin's dedication to the people of
16 Illinois has earned him several honors, such as Legislator of
17 the Year, Friend of Agriculture, Outstanding Legislator of the
18 Year, the Family Legacy Award, and several more over the
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2000 and 2008, Leader Durkin was State
21 Chairman for U.S. Senator John McCain's presidential campaigns

1 and served as Chairman for the Illinois Delegation at the 2008
2 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis; and

3 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin currently serves on the
4 Misericordia Board of Advisors, the Giant Steps of Illinois
5 Board of Directors, and the JDRF Illinois Board of Directors;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Leader Durkin currently resides in Western
8 Springs with his wife, Celeste, and his family; and

9 WHEREAS, On November 9, 2022, Leader Durkin informed his
10 colleagues that he would not stand for election as House
11 Republican Leader in the approaching term of the 103rd
12 Illinois General Assembly; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we congratulate and thank the Honorable Jim Durkin for his
16 distinguished service to the people of Illinois as the House
17 Republican Leader during the 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, and
18 102nd General Assemblies and wish him the very best as he moves
19 on to new challenges in his life and the lives of his family;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Leader Durkin and his family as an expression of
2 our esteem and respect.