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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, State Senator Andy Manar will step away from the Illinois Senate after eight years of dedicated service to the people of the 48th District and a vigorous record of fighting for children, working families, educators, small businesses, and senior citizens; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Manar, a lifelong resident of Bunker Hill in southern Macoupin County, has served in elected public office for nearly 24 years; he was first elected to the Bunker Hill City Council at the age of 21 in 1997; he was elected mayor of Bunker Hill in 2001; he later chaired the Macoupin County Board until his election to the Illinois Senate in 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Manar's influences include his family and his mentor, the late State Senator Vince Demuzio, who instilled in him the deeply held beliefs that hard work, a record of bipartisanship, and accountability to the people he represents are among his most important achievements as an elected official; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Manar has been a champion for responsible State budgets, collective bargaining, access to affordable health care, teachers, and the LGBTQ community; he passed

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1 numerous laws that will have a lasting impact on Illinois  
2 citizens for generations; and

3 WHEREAS, Arguably, Senator Manar's most defining  
4 accomplishments were born out of his passion for and  
5 commitment to public education in Illinois; in addition to  
6 taking steps to address a dire teacher shortage in schools  
7 throughout the State, he and a coalition of advocates  
8 succeeded in reshaping the way Illinois schools are funded  
9 after decades of worst-in-the-nation rankings for the State's  
10 contributions to school funding; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Manar spent countless hours negotiating a  
12 plan to overhaul the school funding formula, holding town hall  
13 meetings, talking with school superintendents, explaining  
14 school funding to taxpayers, and making the case to newspaper  
15 editorial boards throughout Illinois for why the State should  
16 update its formula; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Manar's efforts resulted in the  
18 Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act becoming law in  
19 2017, which meant that Illinois would put the most underfunded  
20 school districts at the front of the line for State support and  
21 make equity the foundation of public school funding for the  
22 first time in a generation; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Manar has also been an ardent proponent  
2 of affordable, accessible health care, particularly in rural  
3 and underserved communities; he was instrumental in creating  
4 the Critical Access Pharmacy program to help independent,  
5 locally-owned pharmacies keep their doors open in the wake of  
6 increasing financial pressure from corporations and pharmacy  
7 benefit managers; he also passed the State's first regulation  
8 of pharmacy benefit managers in Illinois; and

9           WHEREAS, Seeing that the exorbitant cost of insulin put  
10 this life-saving drug out of reach for many Illinoisans,  
11 Senator Manar built a statewide, grassroots campaign and  
12 contended with predatory pharmaceutical companies, passing a  
13 historic law to cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at \$100  
14 per month in Illinois; and

15           WHEREAS, Senator Manar made access to the ballot box  
16 another priority, and he succeeded in passing an automatic  
17 voter registration plan that has modernized State bureaucracy  
18 and made it easier for Illinois citizens to register to vote  
19 while also protecting the State from voter fraud; and

20           WHEREAS, Senator Manar served as chair of one of the  
21 Illinois Senate's two budget committees during a period of  
22 great political gridlock and financial uncertainty; he  
23 delivered millions of dollars in State investments for

1 schools, parks, libraries, and roads to communities in the  
2 48th District; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Manar directed State resources to  
4 programs to help develop the 48th District's workforce,  
5 including millions of dollars for the Work Skills Program at  
6 Richland Community College in Decatur, for the South Macoupin  
7 Consortium for Innovation and Career Pathways serving students  
8 in six high schools, in funding for a new South Central  
9 Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center in  
10 Litchfield, and for the Golden Apple Teacher Accelerators  
11 program at Blackburn College in Carlinville; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Manar has been recognized by numerous  
13 organizations for his work in the Illinois Senate, including  
14 receiving the Dawn Clark Netsch Straight Talk Award from the  
15 Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, the Common Cause  
16 Champion of Democracy, Rural Legislator of the Year from the  
17 Illinois Hospital Association, the President's Award from the  
18 Faith Coalition for the Common Good, the Vince Demuzio  
19 Legislator of the Year Award from the Illinois Association of  
20 Community Action Agencies, and the 2019 Illinois Education  
21 Association Friend of Education Award and being named a 2016  
22 Wall of Honor inductee at Bunker Hill High School; and

23 WHEREAS, Senator Manar's proudest achievement is his

1 family, which includes his wife, Trista, and their three  
2 children, Abbie, Will, and Ben; they will continue to reside  
3 in Bunker Hill, three blocks from his childhood home; and

4 WHEREAS, The Senate's loss is certainly the Governor's  
5 gain, as Senator Manar will join Governor JB Pritzker's  
6 administration; he will no doubt remain a champion for working  
7 families and downstate communities; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Andy  
10 Manar for his years of service to the people of Illinois and  
11 wish him the best in his future endeavors; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to Senator Manar as a symbol of our gratitude and  
14 esteem.