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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Martin "Marty" Matthews on his retirement from full-time employment as Director of Government Affairs with Merck & Company, Inc. and to commend him for his unwavering commitment to improving the health of residents of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Martin Matthews is a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he attended Schenley High School; he earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

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WHEREAS, In 1989, Martin Matthews commenced his professional career with Merck & Company, Inc. as a professional sales representative, focusing on cardiovascular, osteoarthritis, Parkinson's, and ophthalmic diseases and pharmaceuticals to treat and manage the health of the afflicted; and

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WHEREAS, Martin Matthews was subsequently promoted to serve as Merck & Company's national coordinator for health education from 1991 to 1992, where he managed a \$23 million dollar health education budget for cardiovascular marketing

1 teams; and

2 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews then transitioned to a new role
3 in 1992 as sales training manager for new representatives in
4 the Ohio and Seattle regions, serving an even greater
5 responsibility within Merck & Company; and

6 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews assumed the key position of
7 Director of Government Affairs for Merck & Company in 1993,
8 becoming responsible for all legislative and regulatory issues
9 affecting the company in the states of Illinois, Indiana,
10 Iowa, and South Dakota; and

11 WHEREAS, From 1993 to 2023, Martin Matthews was a member
12 of the Illinois PhRMA Task Force, sharing his insights with
13 association members and leadership on Medicaid, Medicare, and
14 health care reform legislation being considered for enactment
15 by the Illinois General Assembly; and

16 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews also served on several
17 professional bodies, including the Illinois Chamber Health
18 Care Council, the Illinois Hepatitis C Task Force, the
19 Illinois Diabetes Policy Coalition as legislative chairman,
20 and the Illinois Diabetes Caucus Foundation Board; and

21 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews developed an expertise on a

1 multitude of key Merck & Company policy issues, from varicella
2 and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to diabetes drug
3 access; and

4 WHEREAS, During his service as Director of Government
5 Affairs for Merck & Company, Martin Matthews has received
6 numerous professional corporate recognitions, including the
7 Masters Club Distinguished Service Award in 1998, the Vice
8 President's Distinguished Service Award in 2002, the Merck
9 Special Achievement Award in both 2001 and 2002, the Merck
10 Masters Club Award in 2008, 2011, and 2013, and installation
11 in the Hall of Fame, as well as numerous Awards of Excellence
12 from Merck Sales, the Vaccine Division, and the Merck Schering
13 Plough Joint Venture; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Martin Matthews has worked
15 in a bipartisan manner to advocate for the passage of over 200
16 pieces of legislation designed to improve healthcare and
17 access to affordable drugs and vaccines for Illinoisans; his
18 greatest legislative accomplishment occurred in 2002, when he
19 provided testimony and guidance to Illinois lawmakers and the
20 State Board of Public Health on treatment options for the
21 eradication of chicken pox, also known as the varicella-zoster
22 virus, among Illinois school children, leading to the
23 implementation of a groundbreaking law; and

1 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews is the longest tenured Director
2 of Government Affairs for Merck & Company in Illinois history,
3 with a career spanning 30-plus years of service; and

4 WHEREAS, Martin Matthews is the husband of Timoli, the son
5 of Lela Matthews, and the father of Aja, Lela, and Mariah; and

6 WHEREAS, In retirement, Martin Matthews looks forward to
7 spending more time with his family and to perfecting his golf
8 game and grilling skills with friends and colleagues;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate Martin "Marty" Matthews on his retirement from
13 full-time employment as Director of Government Relations at
14 Merck & Company, and we commend him on his many years of
15 service on behalf of patients in the State of Illinois and
16 beyond; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented Martin Matthews as a symbol of our esteem and
19 respect.