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LRB103 35102 MST 65059 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Ron Melka on the occasion of his retirement as the executive director of the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission (LTMHC); and

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WHEREAS, Ron Melka began his career as an emergency room worker in a hospital trauma center and then served as a court-appointed youth advocate coordinator; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Melka has provided leadership in advancing the community-based behavioral health system as the executive director of the LTMHC since 2013, representing the LTMHC to many community groups and initiatives, at both the local and State level; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Melka formed, supported, and now chairs the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Lyons Township, where he has written and received a 10-year, \$1.2 million Federal Drug Free Coalition Grant to provide prevention programs for area youth; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Melka has also led several nonprofit organizations over his career; he served as a grant writer at Aunt Martha's Youth Services and Healthcare, one of the

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1 State's largest service providers; he served as president/CEO  
2 of United Way of Illinois, working in partnership with  
3 government and communities addressing issues impacting human  
4 services, and as the CEO of Youth in Crisis in Berwyn, serving  
5 youth who are at risk of child abuse, neglect, and running away  
6 or who are in trouble at home, in school, or in the community;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ron Melka has tirelessly chaired and served over  
9 the years on many statewide boards and commissions, including  
10 the Illinois Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
11 Emergency Food and Shelter State Set Aside Board, the Illinois  
12 Governor's Human Service Task force, the Governor's Keep Warm  
13 Illinois Energy Assistance Council, the United Way of America  
14 Council of States, the Development Committee for the Illinois  
15 Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council of the Illinois  
16 Department of Human Services, and others; and

17 WHEREAS, Ron Melka has trained over 300 police and fire  
18 personnel in mental health first aid as a certified mental  
19 health first aid trainer; and

20 WHEREAS, Ron Melka has served as an adjunct professor in  
21 the Illinois Institute of Technology Graduate Program of  
22 Public Administration, specializing in ethics, nonprofit  
23 management, performance measurement, and resource development;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Ron Melka has been an active member and leader of  
3 the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of  
4 Illinois (ACMHAI), dutifully serving as its president from  
5 2020 to 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Ron Melka brought his expertise and passion for  
7 helping others to the membership of ACMHAI as an ongoing  
8 contributor, strong advocate, and skilled spokesperson on  
9 behavioral health, substance use, and  
10 intellectual/developmental disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, Ron Melka demonstrated a keen awareness of the  
12 legislative process and consistently advanced the  
13 community-based behavioral health system in Illinois while  
14 serving chair of the ACMHAI Medicaid and Managed Care  
15 Committee from 2015 to 2020; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Ron  
18 Melka on his retirement, express our heartfelt gratitude for  
19 his exceptional service, leadership, and contributions to  
20 behavioral health, and wish him a joyful and fulfilling  
21 retirement, knowing his impact will be felt for years to come;  
22 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Ron Melka as an expression of our esteem and  
3 respect.