



HR0425

LRB095 12186 KXB 36393 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Ross Pesce on his
4 retirement as a psychologist at Morton East High School in
5 Cicero; and

6 WHEREAS, Ross Pesce arrived at Morton East High School in
7 1975 as a psychologist intern and remained there as a
8 psychologist; he has worked in a variety of areas including
9 special education and Title 1; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the years he has supervised dozens of
11 practicum students and psychologist interns; over twenty-five
12 years ago, he, along with one of the deans, structured a
13 student assistance program called Student Assistance in Life
14 (SAIL); through this groundbreaking program current staff
15 pooled their therapeutic resources to screen, refer, and
16 deliver direct service to students who were not receiving
17 special education services; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1996, Ross Pesce was named the school
19 district's first Student Assistance Program Coordinator; he
20 helped develop and implement numerous programs aimed at
21 violence prevention and crisis management; he acted as the
22 facilitator for two community based violence prevention task

1 forces, one at Morton East and one at Morton West; one
2 memorable event sponsored by the Morton East task force was a
3 Pray, Play, Stay away campaign aimed at keeping community
4 residents in favor of confronting KKK marchers away from them
5 in March of 1998; over 1,800 community residents enjoyed
6 various activities at the school in lieu of confronting the
7 Klan; this collaborative infrastructure proved essential in
8 winning the first Safe Schools, Healthy Students Initiative
9 Grant award in Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, The award was given by President Clinton and
11 brought \$5.4 million to the community and its partners for four
12 years; Ross Pesce served as consultant to this grant and later
13 as Project Director; in 2003 Ross reverted to his role as a
14 psychologist and became the first school district support
15 service personnel CAC in 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, Ross Pesce will do volunteer work in the community
17 and with the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership; he
18 will serve as president of the Illinois School Psychologists
19 Association and continue in private practice; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 congratulate Ross Pesce on his retirement and wish him the best
23 in his future endeavors; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Ross Pesce as a symbol of our respect.