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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, State Senator Deanna Demuzio has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 49th Legislative District since 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Deanna Demuzio joined the Illinois Senate in May of 2004 as the unanimous choice to fill the vacancy created when her husband, Senate Majority Leader and Dean of the Senate Vince Demuzio, passed away after serving the Central Illinois region for more than 30 years; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio, who had been working for families and residents of the 49th Legislative District for many years, was elected to the Illinois Senate by the voters of the 49th Legislative District in 2004 and re-elected to a 4-year term in November of 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio, who learned her strong values growing up on a family farm in Gillespie, and through her past work for the Auditor of Public Accounts, numerous legislators, other elected officials, and Lewis and Clark Community College - Macoupin County Center, has brought a wealth of diverse work experience to the Illinois Senate; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio began her work in the Illinois

1 Senate as a legislative assistant for former State Senators
2 William Lyons, Charlie Chew, and Ed Nihill; and

3 WHEREAS, As a former small business owner, Senator Demuzio
4 has been a volunteer for several organizations, including the
5 Carlinville Business and Professional Women, the Carlinville
6 Chamber of Commerce, and the Carlinville Hospital Auxiliary;
7 she served as president of each of the 3 groups at various
8 times; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio understands the importance of a
10 strong local economy and has been a strong advocate for job
11 creation in the 49th District in numerous ways, including her
12 support of the \$31 billion capital construction bill, which
13 will provide her Central Illinois district with over \$700,000
14 for municipal repairs and more than \$400,000 for school
15 improvements and, in turn, thousands of jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, Understanding the importance of coal in providing
17 both jobs and energy, Senator Demuzio has worked to expand the
18 use of coal in Illinois to bring jobs to the coal industry, as
19 well as expand the use of clean coal technology and other
20 alternative fuels, like bio-diesel, to Central Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio, as a member and as the former
22 Vice-Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee, has

1 championed mentoring programs for principals, increased
2 pre-school education, and tirelessly advocated for more
3 dollars for local schools; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio was named to the Illinois State
5 Action for Education Leadership Project (IL-SAELP) Executive
6 Committee, a bi-partisan committee that seeks to improve
7 student achievement statewide; and

8 WHEREAS, Understanding that a first-class learning
9 environment is necessary for a student's success, Senator
10 Demuzio sponsored numerous bills to help Illinois schools
11 employ highly trained principals and superintendents,
12 including her legislation that will require, starting in 2014,
13 that school principals will be required to complete an approved
14 principal preparation program, hold at least a master's degree,
15 and have a minimum of 4 years teaching or other school service
16 experience; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio, who has made it a priority to
18 develop good education policy in Illinois to ensure each child
19 has access to a good school, has been recognized for her
20 efforts on behalf of education, receiving the "All Award" from
21 both Illinois Education Association Regions 6 and 45; she has
22 also been recognized by the Illinois Association of Regional
23 School Superintendents Area 5 as a "Friend of Education"; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio is a strong supporter of higher
2 education and has served on the Blackburn College Board of
3 Trustees since 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has served as Chair of the Senate
5 Committee on State Government and Veteran Affairs in the 95th
6 and 96th General Assemblies, where she has been a strong voice
7 for the wellbeing of Illinois' veterans; she was honored with
8 "The Heat is On" Meritorious Service Award by the Illinois
9 Veterans of Foreign Wars in honor of her work; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has worked to ease the burden on
11 military families with school-age children by passing
12 legislation that allows Illinois to enter into the Interstate
13 Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children,
14 which will make it easier for children of military personnel
15 who change schools to transfer school credits and complete
16 coursework in order to graduate; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has also passed legislation that
18 will simplify the process by which veterans receive free
19 hunting and fishing licenses in Illinois, as well as
20 legislation which allows veterans to camp for free in Illinois;
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1 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio also serves as Vice-Chairperson
2 on both the Human Services Committee and the Redistricting
3 Committee and has been an active member of the committees on
4 Agriculture and Conservation and Commerce and Economic
5 Development; she is also the former Chair of the Senate
6 Licensed Activities Committee; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has made it a priority to bring
8 better healthcare opportunities to rural and underserved areas
9 of the State; she served as the chair of the Joint Task Force
10 on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas, which led to
11 her sponsorship of a new law that will make dental care
12 available to more people in the State of Illinois by allowing
13 the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to expand
14 administrative rules permitting dentists to volunteer their
15 time at qualified health centers in their communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio became a member of the St. Francis
17 Hospital Board of Directors Strategic Planning Advisory Group
18 in 2009; she has been recognized for her work to improve
19 healthcare for residents of Illinois by the Illinois Rural
20 Health Association; and

21 WHEREAS, Following the death of her husband from colon
22 cancer, Senator Demuzio became a strong supporter of colorectal
23 cancer screening, passing legislation creating the Vince

1 Demuzio Memorial Colon Cancer Fund and working to ensure that
2 individuals who live in areas of the State that have the
3 highest incidences of mortality from colorectal cancer have
4 access to early detection and treatment opportunities; and

5 WHEREAS, Having grown up on a farm, Senator Demuzio has
6 always been a strong supporter of Illinois' number one industry
7 - agriculture; in addition to her service as a member of the
8 Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee, she is a former
9 co-chair of the Rural Water Task Force and has been recognized
10 with the Illinois Farm Bureau Activator Award; she has also
11 been honored by the Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
12 for her commitment to agriculture that involves proper
13 stewardship and utilization of agricultural chemicals; and

14 WHEREAS, With the proximity of Senator Demuzio's district
15 to Springfield, she has been a strong voice in support of State
16 employees who reside in her district and work at any one of
17 many State facilities and offices in the Springfield area; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has also been involved with other
19 community organizations, including the PTA, the American Heart
20 Association, and the Rotary Club; she also served as a Macoupin
21 County Fair Judge until very recently; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio has served as President of the

1 Carlinville Public School Foundation; she also served as a
2 member of the board for Kemmerer Village, Catholic Charities,
3 and the Carlinville Public Library, and has been actively
4 involved in organizations such as the Daughters of the American
5 Revolution, the Catholic Daughters of America, Relay for Life,
6 the Jacksonville Kiwanis, and the Macoupin County Democratic
7 Women's Organization; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio's commitment to her district and
9 its communities and their values is demonstrated in the
10 effective job she has done as a State Senator and by the
11 recognition she has received from numerous groups and
12 organizations, including the Illinois School for the Deaf and
13 the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, who awarded her
14 a plaque of thanks for her work to keep the schools open, the
15 Illinois Valley Rehab Center, who proclaimed her a "Champion of
16 the Less Fortunate", and the Macoupin County Friend of the Fair
17 Award; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Demuzio is the mother of her loving son,
19 Brad, and her wonderful daughter, Stephanie, who is married to
20 Patrick, and is the grandmother of 4; she will be dearly missed
21 by all in this chamber; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank State Senator

1 Deanna Demuzio for her dedicated service to the people of
2 Illinois and honor her with this resolution; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to State Senator Deanna Demuzio with our best wishes
5 for her future endeavors.