



HR1222

LRB097 22905 MST 71707 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Katherine
4 Austman on receiving the "2012 Rural Physician of Excellence
5 Award" from the Illinois Rural Health Association; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman received her medical degree from the
7 University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford in 2001;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, One of the biggest healthcare challenges across
10 our nation is the shortage of physicians who practice in rural
11 settings; and

12 WHEREAS, After completing her residency in Family Practice
13 at the Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in Peoria, Dr.
14 Austman began her service to the rural residents of Ford County
15 when she joined the staff at Gibson Area Hospital; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman's certifications in Neonatal
17 Resuscitation, Advanced Life Support for Obstetrics, Pediatric
18 Advanced Life Support, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support allow
19 her to provide the utmost in care to rural families; and

20 WHEREAS, Because of her hard work and respect of her

1 colleagues, Dr. Austman is the current Chief of Medical Staff
2 at Gibson Area Hospital; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman's commitment to providing access to
4 healthcare to "brand new rural residents" is exemplified in
5 cases in which she delivered babies in non-traditional
6 settings, such as her office or at the home of a new mom, who at
7 the time was not even a patient; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman often sees patients after hours and in
9 her own home if necessary, in order for there not to be any
10 delays in care; and

11 WHEREAS, In order to expose young people to careers in
12 medicine, Dr. Austman provides transportation to the
13 community's elementary school students so they can participate
14 in Gibson Area Hospital's annual "School Tours"; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman provides health education to her
16 community by being an active participant in area health fairs;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman supports many local charities' 5K runs
19 and rallies the rest of the medical staff to join her; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Austman supervises a physician assistant in

1 order to expand the care rural residents in her community
2 receive; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we commend Dr. Katherine Austman on the impacts she makes on
6 improving access to rural health care; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Dr. Austman as a symbol of our respect and esteem.