



HR0631

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Sharon Smaga for receiving the "2017 Rural Physician of Excellence Award" from the Illinois Rural Health Association; and

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

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WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga graduated from the University of Chicago Medical School in 1982; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga completed her residency in family practice through Southern Illinois University (SIU) at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale in 1985, where she became Chief Resident; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga began her career in family practice in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and

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WHEREAS, In 1987, Dr. Smaga returned to Carbondale, where she has served tens of thousands of patients as a physician with the SIU Family Medicine Center; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga has made a major impact on improving the
2 quality of life for many geriatric patients, serving as Medical
3 Director for SIU Alzheimer's and Related Memory Disorders
4 Clinic in Carbondale, as well as her service to programs such
5 as the Older Adults Community Care Collaborative Initiative and
6 the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga inspired hundreds of medical students,
8 many of whom went on to practice in rural areas during her
9 28-year teaching career at the SIU School of Medicine; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga's board certifications in both family
11 practice and geriatric medicine have allowed her to care for
12 multiple generations of families in her community; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Smaga will now have more time to devote to
14 cultivating her garden at home during her retirement after she
15 dedicated her entire career to cultivating an improved health
16 care environment for the residents of southern Illinois;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 commend Dr. Sharon Smaga for her 35 years of selfless service
21 and dedication to her patients and we wish her the best in her
22 retirement; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Dr. Smaga, as a symbol of our respect and esteem.