



HR0147

LRB101 07414 ALS 52454 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Susan Converse on being  
4 named the 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year by the Illinois  
5 State Board of Education; and

6           WHEREAS, Susan Converse began her career as a journalist; a  
7 chance assignment to fill in for the education reporter changed  
8 her trajectory; after spending an afternoon talking with  
9 excited students, she decided to change careers, and she began  
10 teaching in 1995; she has taught students with emotional  
11 disabilities, learning disabilities, intellectual  
12 disabilities, and autism at the elementary, middle, and high  
13 school levels; she served as an administrator for nine years  
14 before returning to the classroom in 2013; currently, she  
15 teaches special education for students in grades nine through  
16 12 at Edwardsville High School in Edwardsville Community Unit  
17 School District 7; she assists her students with their needs as  
18 they prepare to exit the school system; and

19           WHEREAS, In 2016, Susan Converse opened the Tiger Den, a  
20 student-run coffee and pastry shop at Edwardsville High School;  
21 under her guidance, students with disabilities carry out all  
22 aspects of the Tiger Den's operations; her students develop  
23 skills they later use to lead more independent lives after high

1 school; the coffee shop has served as a stepping stone to  
2 competitive employment for her students, and many are now  
3 employed in the community; and

4 WHEREAS, The Tiger Den also gives back to the community by  
5 donating money to local charitable organizations; over the past  
6 two years, the Tiger Den Coffee Shop has donated more than  
7 \$10,000 to local families in need and has supported community  
8 initiatives that promote the inclusion of individuals with  
9 disabilities; she hopes to expand this vocational initiative by  
10 opening a similar establishment in the community in the near  
11 future; and

12 WHEREAS, Susan Converse describes her philosophy of  
13 teaching as "giving each student the individual structure and  
14 approach they need to grow, while maintaining an equally high  
15 level of expectations for all"; she believes that a teacher's  
16 role is to prepare students to become positive and responsible  
17 members of the community; her students know that she believes  
18 in them; and

19 WHEREAS, Susan Converse received her Bachelor of Science in  
20 Journalism and her Master of Science in Educational Leadership  
21 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; she is a  
22 certified reading specialist and holds an additional  
23 certification in administration; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we congratulate Susan Converse on being named the 2019 Illinois  
4 Teacher of the Year, and we commend her dedication to her  
5 students; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Susan Converse as an expression of our esteem and  
8 respect.