



HR0251

LRB099 11393 GRL 32239 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka was born on  
3           January 16, 1944; a native of Illinois, she was born in  
4           Riverside, attending local public schools and the Ferry Hall  
5           School for Girls; and

6           WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka attended the Medill School of  
7           Journalism at Northwestern University, graduating with a  
8           degree in journalism; after graduating in 1966, she worked as a  
9           reporter for the "Forest Park Review" and the "Life Newspapers"  
10          chain, rising within Life Newspapers to the rank of editor; and

11          WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka worked in public relations for  
12          the American Medical Association and as an independent  
13          consultant; as a community leader and public relations  
14          consultant, she became active in 28 separate ethnic, civic, and  
15          political organizations, including the Cermak Road Business  
16          Association and the Riverside, Lyons, Brookfield, and West  
17          Suburban Chambers of Commerce; and

18          WHEREAS, As a community leader, Judy Baar Topinka ran for  
19          election to the Illinois House of Representatives in November  
20          of 1980; winning election in the former 7th District, she took  
21          the oath of office in the 82nd General Assembly; and

1           WHEREAS, After serving 2 terms in the Illinois House,  
2 Topinka ran for, and was elected to, the Illinois Senate in  
3 November of 1984; she served the 22nd District with distinction  
4 for 10 years; and

5           WHEREAS, After 14 years as a member of the Illinois General  
6 Assembly, Judy Baar Topinka ran for statewide office; as a  
7 pioneer in the cause of women in elected statewide office, she  
8 was chosen in November of 1994 to serve as Illinois State  
9 Treasurer, winning the votes of 1,504,335 of her fellow  
10 Illinoisans; and

11           WHEREAS, As Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka was responsible  
12 for the prudent investment and safeguarding of Illinois'  
13 financial assets, including dedicated funds specifically  
14 earmarked by the Illinois General Assembly for defined public  
15 purposes; as Treasurer, her performance was increasingly  
16 valued by the people of Illinois; her election and re-election  
17 percentages rose from 50.4% in 1994 and 50.0% in 1998, to 54.8%  
18 in 2002; and

19           WHEREAS, During Judy Baar Topinka's final term as Treasurer  
20 from 2003 to 2007, the then-sitting Governor of Illinois  
21 pursued a financial policy of shifting monies between State  
22 funds, "sweeping" money out of the dedicated funds overseen by  
23 the Treasurer and damaging the ability of Illinois to keep its

1 promises and meet its financial commitments; and

2 WHEREAS, Fighting to defend the financial honor of  
3 Illinois, Judy Baar Topinka accepted the nomination of the  
4 Republican Party in 2006 for Governor of Illinois, waging a  
5 severely underfunded campaign for the State's highest office as  
6 the first Republican woman to be nominated for this position;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, After briefly living in the private sector, Judy  
9 Baar Topinka returned to the statewide scene in 2010, seeking  
10 and winning election in November of 2010 as the 7th State of  
11 Illinois Comptroller with 1,927,139 votes from her fellow  
12 residents of the Prairie State; and

13 WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka now had  
14 responsibility over managing Illinois' active cash flow;  
15 during her tenure, she continually warned of the dangers  
16 associated with Illinois' unbalanced budgets; and

17 WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka pioneered the  
18 online publication of Illinois' cash flow situation in the  
19 monthly report "Monthly Money Matters", showing her fellow  
20 citizens how Illinois' unofficial debt and unpaid bill  
21 situation was steadily worsening, even as complacent public  
22 officials claimed that the State was continuing to balance its

1 budgets; and

2 WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka strongly  
3 supported economy in government; she even supported efforts to  
4 abolish her own position in office through House Joint  
5 Resolution Constitutional Amendment 1, a bipartisan  
6 constitutional amendment introduced in the 97th General  
7 Assembly to eliminate the Office of the Comptroller and  
8 transfer its powers and duties to the Office of the Illinois  
9 State Treasurer; and

10 WHEREAS, After HJRCA 1 and similar measures failed to get  
11 the required 3/5 majorities in both houses of the Illinois  
12 General Assembly and were not submitted to the voters in 2012  
13 or 2014, Judy Baar Topinka ran for re-election to the office of  
14 Comptroller; and

15 WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka was re-elected to a second full  
16 term as Comptroller on November 4, 2014, marking the 5th time  
17 that she had successfully won the votes of her fellow  
18 Illinoisans for statewide office; but while serving out the  
19 final days of her first term as Comptroller, and preparing to  
20 take the oath of office for her second term, she died in office  
21 at the age of 70 on December 10, 2014 in Berwyn; therefore, be  
22 it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           pay tribute to the memory of our colleague, Illinois  
4           Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That we affirm that Judy Baar Topinka was a  
6           pioneer in the election of women to statewide office in  
7           Illinois and a figure beloved by the members of both political  
8           parties; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10          delivered to Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's son, Joseph Baar  
11          Topinka, and her longtime Chief of Staff, Nancy Kimme.