



HR0866

LRB104 21730 ECR 37380 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Sandra Eckhardt, a Direct
4 Support Professional (DSP) with Ada S. McKinley Community
5 Services in Chicago, on being honored with the Illinois DSP of
6 the Year Award by the American Network of Community Options
7 and Resources (ANCOR); and

8 WHEREAS, Sandra Eckhardt has distinguished herself through
9 years of selfless service to individuals with intellectual and
10 developmental disabilities, embodying the highest ideals of
11 direct support work through her patience, empathy, and
12 unwavering commitment to the dignity and well-being of those
13 she serves; and

14 WHEREAS, Sandra Eckhardt demonstrates a remarkable ability
15 to recognize and cultivate the unique strengths and abilities
16 of each individual she supports, creating personalized
17 approaches that empower them to lead fuller, more independent,
18 and more meaningful lives; and

19 WHEREAS, Sandra Eckhardt's innovation is guided by empathy
20 and imagination; she does not create for recognition but to
21 see the people she supports smile, learn, and believe in
22 themselves, reminding everyone that innovation in human

1 services begins with the heart and grows through compassion,
2 creativity, and the courage to see possibilities where others
3 may not; and

4 WHEREAS, Sandra Eckhardt is beloved by the individuals she
5 supports, as evidenced by the heartfelt words of one of those
6 individuals, Tara, who wrote simply "I love Sandy because she
7 loves us", a testament to the profound and lasting bonds she
8 has formed through her work; and

9 WHEREAS, ANCOR recognizes DSPs across the United States
10 during its annual convention, and during the 2026 ceremony,
11 Recognizing Excellence 2026, Sandra Eckhardt was recognized as
12 the Illinois DSP of the Year among 56 other DSPs and colleagues
13 with Ada S. McKinley Community Services; and

14 WHEREAS, DSPs like Sandra Eckhardt are the backbone of the
15 human services system in Illinois, and their extraordinary
16 work deserves recognition and celebration by the entire State;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate Sandra Eckhardt on being recognized as 2026
21 Illinois Direct Support Professional of the Year by the
22 American Network of Community Options and Resources, and we

1 extend our sincere appreciation for her outstanding service,
2 her compassion, her innovation, and her dedication to
3 improving the lives of people with intellectual and
4 developmental disabilities throughout the State of Illinois;
5 and be it further

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