



SR0446

LRB104 15567 LAW 28733 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Richard John Hamersma, Ph.D., who
4 passed away on April 17, 2025 at the age of 82; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma earned his master's degree and Ph.D.
6 in Psychology from Michigan State University; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma became a highly accomplished
8 psychologist, educator, and award-winning songwriter; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma became an assistant professor at
10 DePaul University before transitioning to private practice,
11 where he served as a clinical psychologist and director of the
12 Growth Process Center; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma was deeply passionate about
14 songwriting; in addition to his academic and clinical
15 contributions, his lyrics gained international recognition,
16 frequently reaching the finals of the United Kingdom
17 Songwriting Contest; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma possessed a profound appreciation
19 for the emotional impact of words, whether expressed through
20 therapy, poetry, or music; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma was a resident of Oak Park for more
2 than 40 years, contributing to the community with his vibrant
3 creativity and active engagement; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Hamersma is survived by his children, John
5 Hamersma, David Hamersma, Amelia Contolini, and Ana-Sage
6 Hartu, and his grandchildren, Marisol Hartu and Edward Hartu
7 Jr.; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Richard John Hamersma, Ph.D. and extend our sincere
11 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
12 him; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Dr. Hamersma as an expression of our
15 deepest sympathy.