



SR0824

LRB104 22141 RMO 38349 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Rachel Gansner of Chicago, who passed
4 away on April 4, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner, the daughter of Judith Caplan and
6 Richard Caplan, was born on December 15, 1980; she was raised
7 in Lincoln Park, where she attended Francis W. Parker School
8 and played softball; she later graduated from Hobart and
9 William Smith Colleges and earned a master's degree in
10 education from DePaul University; she married Jeremy Gansner;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner was passionate about giving girls
13 the opportunity to play baseball, starting the Warren Park
14 Girls Fall Baseball League on the North Side of Chicago in
15 2024; her league began with approximately 25 players ages 6-9
16 who were divided into four teams, the Blue Sox, Comets,
17 Peaches, and Belles, and it soon expanded to offering a second
18 age division for girls ages 10-12; as a coach, she instilled
19 confidence, empowerment, strength, and her love of the sport
20 in her players; and

21 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner's family shared in her love of
22 baseball, with her daughter playing in the league her mother

1 started, her son serving as an occasional umpire, and her
2 husband keeping score and doing play-by-play announcing; and

3 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner founded a baseball nonprofit,
4 Let's Play Too, which focuses on expanding girls' access to
5 the sport; and

6 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner loved spending time with her
7 family and friends at parties in her backyard, enjoying
8 barbecues, the fire pit, and music; she was also a devoted fan
9 of the Chicago Cubs; and

10 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner's legacy of uplifting young
11 athletes will be continued by the Warren Park Youth Baseball
12 Board, on which she formerly served as president; her legacy
13 will be further cemented with a baseball field being named in
14 her honor, and the Warren Park Fall Girls Baseball League will
15 also bear her name; and

16 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner was preceded in death by her
17 father, Richard (Tracy Salvia) Caplan; her father-in-law,
18 Bruce Gansner; and her aunt, Millie (Herb Pozen) Goldstein;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Rachel Gansner is survived by her husband,
21 Jeremy; her children, George and Eloise; her mother, Judith

1 (James Roberts) Caplan; her mother-in-law, Victoria Gansner;
2 her siblings, Seth (Kristen) Caplan, Gustav Caplan, and Sally
3 Caplan; her brother-in-law, Joshua (Christine Licata) Gansner;
4 and her nieces and nephews, Shiloh Cub, Lila, Louis, Cohen,
5 Seth, Lincoln, and Dylan; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Rachel Gansner and extend our sincere condolences to her
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Rachel Gansner as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.