



HR0869

LRB101 21713 MST 72658 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Serena L. Preston, educator and superintendent of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, on the occasion of her retirement on June 30, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Preston is an admired educator and administrator; for more than 20 years, she has tirelessly advocated for students who are blind or visually impaired; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Preston is a native of Independence, Missouri and a graduate of William Chrisman High School; she left the Kansas City area to attend MacMurray College, a private school in Jacksonville, where she received her bachelor's degree before embarking on a remarkable career in education; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Preston graduated from Illinois State University in Bloomington with a master's degree in Special Education and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Preston has devoted more than 20 years of service to the students of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; she has served in many roles, working with students

1 as a classroom educator, as school principal, and currently, as  
2 school superintendent; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Preston served as an interim superintendent of  
4 the Illinois School for the Deaf for two years while  
5 concurrently serving as the superintendent of the Illinois  
6 School for the Visually Impaired; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Preston is a longtime member of the  
8 Association of Educators and Rehabilitation Specialists for  
9 the Blind (AER); she also serves with the Council of Schools  
10 for the Blind (COSB), the Illinois Principals Association, the  
11 Advisory Council of the Illinois State University College of  
12 Special Education, and many other state and local committees in  
13 an effort to advocate for students who are blind or visually  
14 impaired and guide best practices across the field; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Preston is active at the national level,  
16 serving as an American Printing House for the Blind Ex-Officio  
17 Trustee, collaborating closely with other professionals in the  
18 field to be certain products and services support maximum  
19 learning and accessibility, as this important work impacts the  
20 lives of many persons with a visual impairment; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Preston has been an active member of the local  
22 community, serving as vice-chair of the Jacksonville Area

1 Transition Planning Council, as 4-H Project Leader, and 4-H  
2 County Fair Show Superintendent; she has served on Illinois  
3 State Fair 4-H committees and as a show volunteer; she was  
4 coordinator of the annual Youth Camp Fund and a member/director  
5 of community theater and music productions; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Preston has been a tireless advocate for  
7 children and educators for over 32 years, creating positive and  
8 lasting changes for the Illinois School for the Visually  
9 Impaired; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we congratulate Dr. Serena L. Preston on her retirement as  
13 educator and superintendent of the Illinois School for the  
14 Visually Impaired, and we commend her work and wish her the  
15 best in all her future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Dr. Preston as an expression of our admiration and  
18 gratitude for her commitment to the youth and educators of  
19 Illinois.