



HR0941

LRB102 28865 MST 40754 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Karen  
4 Beyer, a pillar of the Elgin community and the former CEO of  
5 the Ecker Center for Mental Health; and

6           WHEREAS, Karen Beyer was a native of Euclid, Ohio; she  
7 earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and  
8 three master's degrees; she earned her Master of Social Work  
9 from Loyola University; and

10           WHEREAS, Karen Beyer spent 10 years as Director of Health  
11 and Human Services for the Village of Hoffman Estates and  
12 eight years as the executive director at the Larkin Center;  
13 for nearly 20 years, she worked at the Ecker Center to help  
14 reshape the conversation around mental health and eliminate  
15 the stigma toward people with mental illness; and

16           WHEREAS, Karen Beyer became a figure on the national stage  
17 when she appeared before the Supreme Court in 1996 as part of  
18 the Jaffee vs. Redmond case to support privacy rights between  
19 therapists and patients; she was threatened with jail time for  
20 refusing to turn over her notes about counseling sessions with  
21 a Hoffman Estates police officer involved in a shooting; the  
22 Supreme Court ruled in favor of Beyer and the protection of

1 privacy rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Karen Beyer retired from the Ecker Center in 2019  
3 but continued working as a board member for the Elgin Area  
4 League of Women Voters and, most recently, as an appointee to  
5 the Township's new 708 Mental Health Board; and

6 WHEREAS, Karen Beyer spent her life helping people,  
7 especially those who don't often have the opportunity to get  
8 help; she leaves behind generations of individuals who she  
9 helped during her five decade career in social work and mental  
10 health advocacy; and

11 WHEREAS, Karen Beyer was strong, creative, and passionate,  
12 and her friends remember her as a warrior, a gentle soul, and a  
13 blessing; and

14 WHEREAS, Karen Beyer is survived by her husband of 15  
15 years, Joe Follrath; her daughter, Jennifer Beyer Zielinski;  
16 her stepchildren, Tim Follrath and Hollee Koszewski; and seven  
17 grandchildren; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we mourn the passing of Karen Beyer and extend our sincere  
21 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved

1 her; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Karen Beyer as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.