



SR1226

LRB103 42669 LAW 75902 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Lauren M. Engelke-Smith of Springfield, who passed away on September 16, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith, the daughter of Thomas W. and Evelyn (Wilson) Engelke, was born on June 8, 1978; she graduated from Queen Anne's Country High School in Maryland in 1996; she earned her bachelor's degree from Wesley College in Delaware and later her master's degree from the University of Illinois Springfield; she married James Aaron Smith in Worton, Maryland on May 24, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith served as a special education teacher for both Springfield Public Schools District 186 and Ball-Chatham Community Unit School District 5, among others, for almost two decades, as well as an assistant Pre-K principal at Beardstown; she was noted for creating a nurturing environment in her classroom, where each child felt valued and understood; she celebrated every small victory with enthusiasm and encouragement and fostered every student's confidence, both academically and socially; she also served as an advocate for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for her students and supported parents through the process; and

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1 WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith was a collaborator on the
2 book, Embracing the Impact of Cancer: Inspirational Stories of
3 Hope; and

4 WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith enjoyed writing, kayaking,
5 and sitting outside in the sun; she also held a passion for
6 haunted houses and paranormal activities, and she was active
7 with her church; and

8 WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith was known for her warm
9 smile, her open heart, and her sense of humor; she will be
10 remembered as an extraordinary educator whose commitment to
11 her students left a lasting impact on countless lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith was preceded in death by her
13 father; her paternal grandparents, Harry and Marion Engelke;
14 her maternal grandparents, George and Bernice Wilson; and her
15 grandfathers-in-law, James Oliver Smith and Clarence Drew; and

16 WHEREAS, Lauren Engelke-Smith is survived by her mother;
17 her husband, Aaron; her sons, Gabriel and Xavier Smith; her
18 daughter, Ebby Smith; her siblings, Charlene Schimmel and Tony
19 Engelke; her in-laws, Sandra and Rickey Kluck; her
20 grandmothers-in-law, Frances Drew and Nina Smith; her dogs,
21 Skylar and Molly; her cats, Church, Ripley, Freya, and Marcy;
22 and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Lauren M. Engelke-Smith and extend our sincere condolences to
5 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Lauren Engelke-Smith as an
9 expression of our deepest sympathy.