



HR1369

LRB097 23695 GRL 72769 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Al Bowman on the occasion of his retirement as President of Illinois State University; and

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WHEREAS, Al Bowman earned his bachelor's degree in speech pathology from Augustana College and his master's degree in speech-language pathology from Eastern Illinois University; he later chose the University of Illinois-Urbana for his graduate work, where he earned his Ph.D. in speech and hearing science; and

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WHEREAS, Al Bowman served as a staff speech pathologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Danville prior to joining Illinois State University in 1978 as a faculty member in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology; in 1994, he was appointed to serve as chairperson of the department; he held the position for 8 years, while also serving as director of the Down Syndrome Speech-Language Clinic and continuing to teach a course each semester; and

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WHEREAS, Under Al Bowman's leadership, the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology (now the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders) was awarded

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1 accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the
2 American Speech-Language Hearing Association, faculty and
3 staff scholarly productivity doubled, and the master's program
4 rose in prestige to its current ranking as number 1 in
5 Illinois; a doctoral program in audiology was added to the
6 program during Bowman's presidency, one of only 5 in the State
7 of Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, In the 2002-2003 academic year, Al Bowman left the
9 chair position to serve as ISU's interim provost; he served as
10 interim president of ISU from June 2003 until he became
11 Illinois State University's 17th president on March 1, 2004;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Under Al Bowman's leadership, ISU has been
14 transformed into a first-choice Illinois public university,
15 ranking in the top 100 public universities nationally according
16 to U.S. News & World Report; during his tenure as president,
17 ISU achieved historic highs in freshman ACT average (24.3),
18 freshman-to-sophomore retention rate (85%), and standard
19 measure graduation rate (70.4%); ISU also constructed a \$50
20 million Student Fitness Center/McCormick Hall, opened a new
21 Alumni Center, renovated many classroom buildings, and
22 completely remodeled 6 residence halls; he initiated the
23 University's first-ever public/private student housing
24 partnership, leading to a 900-bed, privately-owned, student

1 apartment complex constructed on University-owned land; he
2 instituted a salary enhancement plan in September of 2005 to
3 close the gap with peer institution salaries in order to
4 recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff at Illinois
5 State University; since 2005, more than \$3.7 million has gone
6 into the initiative, on top of annual merit-based salary
7 increases; privately raised funds and grant funding have also
8 increased dramatically during Bowman's tenure; and

9 WHEREAS, Al Bowman was honored with the Distinguished
10 Alumni Award from the College of Applied Health Sciences at the
11 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007; and

12 WHEREAS, Al Bowman is an avid outdoorsman; he enjoys
13 mountain climbing, hiking, skiing, golf, and running 5 miles
14 every day; and

15 WHEREAS, Al Bowman and his loving wife, Linda, have 2
16 daughters, Natalie and Laura; and

17 WHEREAS, Al Bowman serves as a model of hard work,
18 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
19 Illinois; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Al Bowman on the occasion of his retirement and
2 wish him continued success and happiness in the future; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to Al Bowman as a symbol of our esteem and respect.