



HR0135

LRB098 11231 MST 42177 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois wish to honor Nancy Shier on the occasion of her retirement as vice-president of Illinois Policy for the Ounce of Prevention Fund; and

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WHEREAS, The Ounce of Prevention Fund was established in 1982 to champion the healthy development of low-income young children and their families; Nancy Shier has been a part of the Ounce of Prevention Fund's policy division since 1987 and its leader since 1989; she is the principal strategist in the areas of Illinois policy and governmental relations and spearheads the agency's legislative and administrative advocacy activities; and

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WHEREAS, Nancy Shier previously worked with the Illinois General Assembly to champion workers and women's rights; and

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WHEREAS, Over the years Nancy Shier has been a leading advocate for programs that strengthen the growth and development of very young children, including education, health care, child care, mental health, child abuse prevention, welfare reform, and professional development of the early childhood workforce; and

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1 WHEREAS, Nancy Shier has been a leader in efforts to expand
2 access to healthcare for low-income and undocumented pregnant
3 women, to improve access to and the quality of early childhood
4 educational programs, and child care services for low-income
5 children; and

6 WHEREAS, In Nancy's years of service, due to her effort and
7 those of her allies, policies and funding to support the
8 healthy development of young children and families have
9 improved dramatically; and

10 WHEREAS, Nancy Shier has been the leading voice on behalf
11 of at-risk infants and toddlers; she was instrumental in the
12 creation of innovative services for those children, including
13 the Healthy Families home visiting program and the creation of
14 the landmark Birth-to-Three set-aside in the Early Childhood
15 Block grant; she has made Illinois the first state in the
16 country to invest in and grow services for infants and toddlers
17 parallel with the growth of services and investments for
18 preschool children; and

19 WHEREAS, Nancy Shier has served on countless boards and
20 advisory bodies, including the State's Human Services
21 Commission, the Child Care Advisory Board, and the board of the
22 Midwest Academy; and

1 WHEREAS, Nancy Shier's reach and influence will continue to
2 inspire for years to come as she has mentored numerous early
3 childhood professionals who themselves will continue to
4 inspire; and

5 WHEREAS, That Nancy Shier is a tenacious advocate for young
6 children; her influence has improved the lot of young children
7 in Illinois and across the country; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate Nancy Shier on her retirement and thank her for
11 the years of service to the citizens of Illinois and the
12 country; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Nancy Shier as an expression of our esteem and
15 gratitude for over a quarter century's work on behalf of women,
16 children, and families.