

HOUSE RESOLUTION

1

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Miriam "Mimi" Cooper
4 on her retirement from the Township High School District 214
5 Board of Education, and her 28 years of service as the
6 longest-tenured Board member in District history; and

7 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper of Arlington Heights was first
8 elected to the Board of Education in 1989 and has guided the
9 District during six years as President and four years as
10 Vice-President, serving more than 81,000 District 214
11 graduates during her time on the Board; and

12 WHEREAS, During Miriam Cooper's tenure, all six
13 comprehensive high schools have been recognized as Blue Ribbon
14 Schools by the United States Department of Education and have
15 continued to receive State and national academic recognition;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, District 214 high schools have been ranked among
18 the top 35 open-enrollment schools in Illinois by U.S. News and
19 World Report and are considered among the State's most
20 challenging schools by The Washington Post; and

21 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper has helped guide District 214

1 through nearly three decades of student-centered learning,
2 developing innovative new curricula, improving facilities,
3 repurposing spaces for the purpose of better instruction,
4 enhancing arts and athletic spaces, and constantly improving in
5 line with changing demographics; and

6 WHEREAS, The White House has recognized District 214 for
7 expanding workplace learning experiences, career exploration
8 for all students, and for efforts to embed computer coding
9 literacy within its math curriculum; and

10 WHEREAS, In partnership with the ASSA and the School
11 Superintendents Association, District 214 launched "Redefining
12 Ready!" to change the national dialogue regarding college and
13 career readiness and to influence the development of the Every
14 Student Succeeds Act accountability plans; and

15 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper has made strong fiscal
16 responsibility a hallmark of her time on the Board; it has been
17 marked by balanced operating budgets and strong finances; even
18 as the District has grown in population she has maintained the
19 highest level of excellence; and

20 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper has been a longtime advocate of
21 Community Education, the Community Education Foundation, and
22 now the District 214 Education Foundation, serving as a board

HR0295

- 3 -

LRB100 11551 MST 22147 r

1 member for each organization and actively working to raise
2 corporate and private funding for continued support of
3 education; and

4 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper helped establish the Catherine M.
5 Lee Women's and Children's Center, which helps low-income,
6 female immigrants in District 214 to gain basic skills in
7 speaking, listening, reading, and writing English to increase
8 readiness skills for gaining employment while their children
9 attend early childhood education classes; and

10 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper has worked professionally in family
11 law matters; she is held in high regard by her peers and has
12 been recognized multiple times as an Illinois top attorney as a
13 "Super Lawyer"; she has held leadership positions in the
14 Northwest Suburban Bar Association and completed mediation

15 training to become a Collaborative Law Fellow; and

16 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper has used her legal expertise to help
17 shape and enhance a law and equity career pathway in District
18 214 and has supported student education through the mock trial
19 experience; and

20 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper's tireless advocacy for public
21 education, selfless service to, and enthusiastic support of
22 District 214 and its programs serves as an outstanding and

HR0295

- 4 -

LRB100 11551 MST 22147 r

1 inspirational example to thousands of students, their parents,
2 and their educators; and

3 WHEREAS, Miriam Cooper's retirement from the District 214
4 Board of Education becomes effective April 27, 2017; therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 congratulate Miriam "Mimi" Cooper on her retirement from the
9 Board of Education of Township High School District 214, and we
10 recognize her dedication as the longest-serving Board member in
11 the District's history; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Miriam Cooper as an expression of our esteem and
14 respect.