

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION remembering the life of Pamela
A. Gemmer.

LANANE

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 121st General Assembly (2019)

SENATE RESOLUTION ____

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION remembering the life of
2 Pamela A. Gemmer.

3 *Whereas, Pamela A. Gemmer was born on March 4, 1944,*
4 *in Brooklyn, New York to Jack J. Hatfield and Virginia*
5 *Hatfield;*

6 *Whereas, Pamela was a dedicated advocate for bringing*
7 *cross-cultural experiences to students in Indiana through her*
8 *years of teaching, volunteering, professional affiliations, and*
9 *numerous community activities;*

10 *Whereas, Pamela was an active member of Broad Ripple*
11 *United Methodist Church and served her faith by bridging*
12 *cultural gaps through teaching Spanish and English across*
13 *Indiana, Florida and Mexico;*

14 *Whereas, She was recognized as Teacher of the Year on*
15 *several occasions by various organizations such as Indiana*
16 *Network for Early Language Learning (IN-NELL), Indiana*
17 *Foreign Language Teachers Association (IFLTA), and Indiana*
18 *American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese*
19 *(AATSP);*

2019

DR 3830/DI AM



1 *Whereas, In 2015, she received recognition from the Mayor*
2 *of Indianapolis as the Latino Educator of the Year at the*
3 *Indiana Latino Expo;*

4 *Whereas, Pamela was a proud educator for more than 40*
5 *years and was continuously involved in education even after*
6 *her retirement, going on to be named Champion in Diversity by*
7 *the Indianapolis Mexican Consulate in 2017;*

8 *Whereas, Pamela frequently worked with the Indiana*
9 *General Assembly on behalf of the IFLTA in helping pass*
10 *increased funding for language programs in elementary schools*
11 *and other matters of educational policy;*

12 *Whereas, Landmark legislation that Pamela helped pass*
13 *involved making Indiana the 9th state in the nation to include*
14 *biliteracy certification, recognizing students who demonstrate*
15 *proficiency in two or more languages with a certificate of*
16 *biliteracy and designation on their transcript after graduation;*

17 *Whereas, That same legislation also authorized dual*
18 *immersion pilot programs and state grants to fund them at the*
19 *elementary level. As of today there are 21 school systems*
20 *implementing dual immersion programs with three more school*
21 *systems in the planning phases;*

22 *Whereas, Most recently, Pamela was an ardent supporter*
23 *of the Indiana Senate Latino Round Table and contributor to*
24 *both monthly meetings and the annual Latino Advocacy Day;*

25 *Whereas, She was an extraordinary mother, and role model*
26 *for her family and many others;*

27 *Whereas, She was an adopted native of Indianapolis and a*
28 *passionate fan of Butler Basketball;*

29 *Whereas, Pamela passed away on October 15, 2018; and*



1 *Whereas, Pamela is survived by her two sons, Daniel*
2 *Valdes and David Valdes; granddaughter, Marina Valdes; two*
3 *sisters, Kristen Shealy and Heidi Chavers; Aunt, Julia*
4 *Bomalaski; and a host of other relatives and friends: Therefore,*
5

6 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
7 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

8 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate remembers the life of Pamela
9 A. Gemmer.

10 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
11 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Daniel Valdes, David Valdes,
12 Heidi Chavers, Kristen Shealy, Linda Howery, Dulce Vega, and Marco
13 Dominguez.

