

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.

