

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 531

Introduced by Gloor, 35; Smith, 14.

WHEREAS, Marcella J. Echternacht, MS, RN, began her nursing career in 1971 as a recipient of a University of Nebraska Regents Scholarship. She graduated with high honors in 1974 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2000, Marcella taught psychiatric nursing at Central Community College in Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Marcella joined the faculty at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha as an assistant professor of nursing, where she continued her career teaching psychiatric nursing. Since then she has been the recipient of many accolades, including being named an Outstanding Faculty Member in 2004 and receiving the 2004 Inspiring Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, Marcella also received the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UNMC College of Nursing and the 2006 Outstanding Achievement in Nursing award from the Nebraska Nurses Association; and

WHEREAS, Marcella served as a member of the Board of Nursing from 2002 to 2009 and as president from 2005 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, she was appointed to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), serving from 2002 through 2009. In 2008, she was appointed chairperson of the NCSBN Transition to Practice Committee, where she worked to address the serious problem of retention rates among nursing graduates during their first year of practice; and

WHEREAS, to address retention problems in Nebraska's nursing workforce, Marcella was appointed by the Board of Nursing to help with implementation of the Center for Regulatory Excellence grant awarded to Nebraska by NCSBN in 2008. Marcella's work in this program over several years led to the development

of a mentoring process designed to acclimate new graduates to the real world of nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, Marcella will complete a 26-year career of nursing education at the end of the College of Saint Mary's spring term in May 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the many contributions and achievements of Marcella J. Echternacht and thanks her for her years of service to the people of the State of Nebraska and the nursing profession.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Marcella J. Echternacht.