

## **2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43**

1	<b>Relating to:</b> the life and public service of Linda Farley.
2	Whereas, Linda Farley, a lifelong advocate and champion of health care reform,
3	passed away at the age of 80 on Tuesday, June 9, 2009; and
4	Whereas, as a young girl growing up in a working class neighborhood in
5	Rochester, New York, Linda cultivated her ambition to improve the health care field
6	by becoming a doctor while reading novels about the heroic work of doctors in
7	Appalachia; and
8	Whereas, in order to realize her dream, Linda worked for Eastman Kodak, and
9	later as a nurse's aide, so that she could afford her medical school tuition at the
10	University of Rochester in New York, where she met her husband Gene; and
11	Whereas, after graduating medical school, Linda began her career with an
12	internship at the University of Colorado, Denver General Hospital, a mostly
13	inner-city facility that served many poor and uninsured, followed by a two-year
14	period working on a Navajo reservation, a brief stint training nurses in Jamaica with
15	her husband, and a return to her native state and the Denver area to practice rural

July 6, 2009 – Introduced by Senators ERPENBACH, MILLER, HOLPERIN, CARPENTER, VINEHOUT, A. LASEE, RISSER, TAYLOR and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives POPE-ROBERTS, BERCEAU, KESSLER, HINTZ, SINICKI, HEBL, MILROY, BLACK, VRUWINK, ROYS, PASCH, BENEDICT, HILGENBERG, STEINBRINK, CULLEN, TURNER, RICHARDS, BERNARD SCHABER, MASON, POCAN, JORGENSEN and TOWNSEND. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

medicine before she finally settled in the Madison area to practice, teach at the 1  $\mathbf{2}$ University of Wisconsin-Madison, and continue her advocacy; and 3 Whereas, Linda credits her time on the Navajo reservation with the development of her philosophy and attitude toward the medicinal field, which 4 5 cultivated in her a greater understanding of community and cross-cultural 6 medicine; and 7 Whereas, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Linda served as an 8 assistant professor and later as an emeritus assistant professor in Family Health 9 and was awarded for the impact she had in this capacity with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Task Force Appreciation Award in 1993, the Wisconsin State 10 11 Medical Society Physician Citizen of the Year in 1995, and the American Academy of Family Physicians President's Award in 2001; and 1213Whereas, Linda will be known best for her dedication and advocacy for health 14 care reform and her desire to bring this message to the people by sharing, with her 15pleasant and level-headed demeanor, her intimate knowledge of the medical field; 16 and Whereas, it was for this work that a few years ago, Congresswoman Tammy 1718 Baldwin nominated Linda to be honored as part of the National Library of Medicine's 19 Local Legends program, describing her as Wisconsin's passionate crusader for health 20care reform; and 21Whereas, Linda, almost always accompanied by her husband Gene, built a 22network of followers that believed in her dream of a single-payer health care system

24 area; and

which eventually changed the dynamics of health care politics in the Dane County

23

- 2 -

1	Whereas, through her work to advance health care reform, Linda helped to form
2	Physicians for a National Health Program, an activist group that now claims more
3	than 16,000 physician members; and
4	Whereas, Linda is survived by her husband Gene, her sons Jonathan, Tillman,
5	Shedden, and Joshua, and her grandchildren; now, therefore, be it
6	<b>Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That</b> that the members
7	of the Wisconsin legislature commend Linda Farley for her tireless service to the
8	health care field, her work to champion health care reform, and her lifelong devotion
9	to the medically underserved, express their deep sorrow at her death, and extend
10	their sincere condolences to her family and friends; and
11	<i>Be it further resolved, That</i> the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this
12	joint resolution to Linda Farley's husband Gene Farley and her sons Jonathan,
13	Tillman, Shedden, and Joshua Farley.
14	(END)