



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 18

February 20, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives BERCEAU, BLACK, ZIEGELBAUER, SINICKI, SHERMAN, PASCH, HEBL, ROYS, GRIGSBY, TURNER, MURSAU, RICHARDS, STASKUNAS, A. OTT, CULLEN, ZEPNICK, NASS, TOWNSEND, GUNDERSON, BERNARD SCHABER and POPE-ROBERTS, cosponsored by Senators RISSER, ERPENBACH, VINEHOUT, HOLPERIN, OLSEN, PLALE, CARPENTER, LEHMAN, COWLES, COGGS, DECKER, TAYLOR, LASSA and MILLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Rebecca Young.

2 Whereas, Rebecca Conrad “Becky” Young, who for decades served as a
3 champion of justice and fairness in government policies, passed away after battling
4 cancer for a decade at the age of 74 on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, in Madison,
5 Wisconsin; and

6 Whereas, Becky Young was born in Clairton, Pennsylvania on February 28,
7 1934, earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1955, her
8 master’s degree in teaching from Harvard University in 1963, and her law degree
9 from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1983; and

10 Whereas, Becky Young met Crawford Young at the University of Michigan,
11 continued their relationship in Morocco in 1956, married on August 17, 1957,
12 eventually moved to Madison, Wisconsin, and together raised 4 daughters; and

13 Whereas, in 1970, Becky Young was elected to the Dane County Board of
14 Supervisors, the first of 12 races she would enter and win; and

1 Whereas, from 1974 to 1976, Becky Young served on the State Highway
2 Commission, was named Deputy Secretary of Administration in 1976, was a member
3 of the Madison School Board from 1979 to 1985, and won election to the Wisconsin
4 state assembly for 7 terms beginning in 1984; and

5 Whereas, in the legislature, Becky Young was known as a powerful advocate for
6 women, children, families, and those less fortunate, one of the most effective women
7 in the assembly, never ceding her position at the table when decisions were made,
8 intelligent, pragmatic, diligent, someone who worked hard to make government
9 work for everyone, and had a remarkable ability to provide people with the tools they
10 needed to be self-sufficient and successful; and

11 Whereas, Becky Young was passionate about her work in areas such as
12 providing child care for working parents, fighting for women’s reproductive health
13 care, transportation planning, strengthening families, promoting the university
14 system, improving services for women and children, prohibiting housing
15 discrimination against families with children and people with disabilities, ensuring
16 gender equity, and reforming the juvenile justice system; and

17 Whereas, Becky Young’s legislative accomplishments include enacting
18 Wisconsin’s Family and Medical Leave Act several years before action on the federal
19 level, initiating the Healthy Start Program to provide health care for pregnant
20 women, creating an increased standard income tax deduction for single parents,
21 implementing progressive policies to treat juvenile offenders and keep them
22 separate from adult inmates, improving programs for incarcerated women who have
23 children, enacting one of the first refundable Earned Income Tax Credits in the
24 country, providing participants in the W-2 welfare program financial assistance for

