



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #: 13-1632, Version: 1**

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has called Ruth M. Rothstein from our midst; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein was a galvanizing healthcare leader with steely determination who often was visionary in her work; and

**WHEREAS**, starting out as a labor union organizer in Youngstown, Ohio at the age of 18, Mrs. Rothstein went on to organize labor unions in New York, Cleveland and Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein's focus switched to healthcare when she received on-the-job training as a lab technician at Jackson Park Hospital in 1952; by 1962 she had become personnel director of Jackson Park Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein next served in various positions at Mount Sinai Hospital and ascended to the positions of president and chief executive officer in 1977; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1991, Mrs. Rothstein was appointed Chief of the Cook County Bureau of Health by Cook County Board President, Richard J. Phelan; she led the Bureau of Health until 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein knew every square inch of the issue of healthcare - the policies, finances, administration. But she never forgot that it is all about the people; if Mrs. Rothstein was afraid of anything, it was of letting the patients down; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure as Health Bureau Chief, Mrs. Rothstein defied, as she had all her life, gender stereotypes; she cleaned up patronage, increased competency and rallied morale; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Hospital had lost its accreditation shortly before Mrs. Rothstein came onboard as Health Bureau Chief, and it was restored within a year; and

**WHEREAS**, under Mrs. Rothstein's tenure, Provident Hospital on Chicago's South Side was reopened; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein worked with the Chicago Department of Health to create 30 satellite health clinics throughout Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, a lifelong believer that quality healthcare is a right of all residents, Mrs. Rothstein led the fight to build John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital, guided by her conviction that Cook County residents, including its indigent, deserved nothing less than excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein helped to forge a public-private partnership to construct an AIDS research and treatment facility in Cook County which was named, in her honor, The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center; and

**WHEREAS**, through the abovementioned achievements, Mrs. Rothstein turned Cook County's healthcare system into a national model and championed better healthcare for the poor; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein continued to work up until her death, most recently as Chairwoman of the Rosalind

Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, in losing Mrs. Rothstein we have lost a tremendous person, an extraordinary advisor, and a woman of unfailing commitment and dedication who helped shape a public health care system that treats anyone who crosses its door; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rothstein is predeceased by her husband, David Rothstein, and is survived by a son, Jonathan Rothstein, a daughter, Martha and a grandson, Max.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Ruth Rothstein's memory shall be cherished in all of the hearts of the people whom she touched and loved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby express its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family as well as to the many friends and loved ones of Ruth M. Rothstein, and may a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered herewith.