

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2025-006

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HONOR LORI MCDONALD FOR
4 HER SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER
5 RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.
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7 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald, the Chief of Staff for the Department of Human
8 Services, will retire on June 30, 2026, after serving in the state government
9 of Arkansas for twenty-eight (28) years; and
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11 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald is a seasoned public service professional with
12 more than two (2) decades of experience in the state government of Arkansas,
13 known for her expertise in legislative affairs, advocacy, constituent
14 services, and organizational leadership; and
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16 WHEREAS, throughout her career, Lori McDonald has built a reputation as
17 a flexible, creative, and highly adaptable leader who excels in fast-paced,
18 high-visibility environments; and
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20 WHEREAS, before joining the Department of Human Services, Lori McDonald
21 built a strong foundation in state government through working at the Office
22 of Child Support Enforcement; and
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24 WHEREAS, while at the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Lori
25 McDonald gained extensive experience in staff supervision, statewide
26 training, auditing, policy interpretation, and customer service, and managed
27 large caseloads, led comprehensive training programs, and worked closely with
28 both the public and with elected officials; and
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30 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald's early roles honed the communication,
31 analytical, and leadership skills that would later define her success at the
32 Department of Human Services; and
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34 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald's work with the Department of Human Services has
35 spanned multiple leadership roles, each increasing in level of
36 responsibility; and

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WHEREAS, beginning with her initial roles as program manager and program administrator at the Department of Human Services, Lori McDonald developed deep knowledge of policy, operations, and intergovernmental communication; and

WHEREAS, as Lori McDonald advanced at the Department of Human Services, she became a trusted liaison to legislators, the office of the Governor, and congressional staff, and consistently ensured that the priorities, concerns, and needs of the Department of Human Services were communicated accurately and effectively; and

WHEREAS, in her roles as program manager and program administrator at the Department of Human Services, Lori McDonald led critical functions including litigation assignment, constituent services, human resources, financial oversight, legislative tracking, and budget development, managed complex workflows, coordinated legislative reports, responded to inquiries from elected officials, and supervised teams responsible for sensitive, time-bound processes, and her work required strong judgment, diplomacy, and the ability to interpret state and federal law in real time; and

WHEREAS, Lori McDonald's later roles at the Department of Human Services as Assistant Deputy Director and Deputy Chief of Staff of Legislative Affairs and then as Chief of Staff showcase the full breadth of her expertise, as in these positions she has led the Department of Human Services' legislative strategy, managed high-level legislative requests and communications, provided testimony, and proactively briefed lawmakers on issues critical to Department of Human Services' programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Lori McDaniel's leadership has strengthened the Department of Human Services' relationships with elected officials and ensured that complex policy matters are communicated clearly, accurately, and effectively; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her legislative leadership, Lori McDonald oversees constituent services, provides internal training on legislative processes, and serves as a key advisor to the Department of Human Services'

1 leadership on emerging issues; and

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3 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald represents the Department of Human Services on
4 high priority statewide initiatives, including serving as the liaison for the
5 Governor’s Office of Faith-Based Initiatives; and

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7 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald’s ability to step into emergency response roles,
8 such as serving as housing manager during the Department of Human Services’
9 tornado response in March of 2023, demonstrates her adaptability, steady
10 leadership, and commitment to public service; and

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12 WHEREAS, Lori McDonald’s career demonstrates a long-standing commitment
13 to public service, a talent for legislative and intergovernmental engagement,
14 and a proven ability to lead teams, solve problems, and support mission-
15 critical operations across state government,

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17 NOW THEREFORE

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FIFTH
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 THAT the Legislative Council recognizes and honors Lori McDonald for
22 her service to the State of Arkansas upon the occasion of her retirement from
23 the Department of Human Services.

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28 Respectfully submitted,

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32 Senator Ben Gilmore

33 District 1

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1 Representative Les D. Eaves
2 District 58
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6 Representative Brian S. Evans
7 District 68
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11 Representative Mary Bentley
12 District 54
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16 Representative Keith Brooks
17 District 78
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21 Representative Karilyn Brown
22 District 67
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26 Representative Frances Cavanaugh
27 District 30
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31 Representative Andrew Collins
32 District 73
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36 Representative Cindy Crawford

1 District 51
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5 Representative Hope Duke
6 District 12
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10 Representative Denise Garner
11 District 20
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15 Representative Dolly Henley
16 District 88
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20 Representative Roger D. Lynch
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25 Representative Mindy McAlindon
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30 Representative Rick McClure
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35 Representative Ron McNair
36 District 5

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4 Representative Kendra Moore
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14 Representative David Ray
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19 Representative Marcus E. Richmond
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24 Representative Johnny Rye
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29 Representative Dwight Tosh
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34 Representative DeAnn Vaught
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3 Representative Les Warren
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8 Representative David Whitaker
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13 Representative Richard Womack
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18 Representative Jim Wooten
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23 Senator Dave Wallace
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28 Senator Bart Hester
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33 Senator Justin Boyd
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22 Senator Kim Hammer
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27 Senator Ricky Hill
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32 Senator Mark Johnson
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1 Senator Jim Petty
2 District 29
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6 Senator Terry Rice
7 District 5
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11 Senator Matt Stone
12 District 2
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16 Senator Clarke Tucker
17 District 14
18 Prepared by: ZRC/ZRC
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