ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 66 By: Taylor, Wright, Bell, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Cole, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Monson, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don) and Williams (Penny)

A Resolution expressing gratitude to Senator Bernice Shedrick for her years of service to the State of Oklahoma; congratulating her upon the occasion of her retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Mary Bernice Shedrick was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma, on August 9, 1940 to Irene Mae (Williams) Link and Arthur Cole Link. She is the mother of three children: daughter, Crystal Dawn Shedrick Hayes, and sons, Michael Scott Shedrick and Steven Link Shedrick; and grandmother of three, Lindsey Sommer Hayes, Dustin Taylor Hayes and Hunter Ryann Shedrick; and

WHEREAS, Bernice Shedrick graduated from Oklahoma State University with a baccalaureate degree in 1969 and a master's degree in 1972. She had a distinguished career in education before being elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. While serving in the Senate, she graduated from Oklahoma City University Law School with a Juris Doctorate in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Bernice Shedrick served as a member of Alpha Xi Delta; Cushing, Perkins and Stillwater Chambers of Commerce; Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council; OSU Alumni Foundation; Beta Moms; and Payne County and Oklahoma Bar Associations; and

WHEREAS, Bernice Shedrick has garnered many honors and awards, including Phi Kappa Phi (top ten percent of graduating class from OSU); Moot Court Board; American Jurisprudence Award; Outstanding Young Women of America; Alpha Lambda Delta Woman of the Month; Outstanding Jaycee Jayne of the Year; Who's Who in American Politics; Who's Who in Politics of the Southwest; Who's Who of American Women in Politics; Honorary Mayor of Carney, Oklahoma; OSU Centennial Advisory Committee: Oxford University, Oxford, England, International Roundtable on Education Finance and Reform, 1991; Harvard University's Graduate School of Education Joint Institute with the National Conference of State Legislatures on "Better Education Through Informed Legislation", 1993; Oklahoma State University "Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award", 1994; National Democratic Institute for International Affairs Conference on Women and Legislative Affairs, Buenos Aires and Mendoza, Argentina, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Bernice Shedrick was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1980. She was the first woman Senator from Payne County and is Oklahoma's third woman to serve in the upper House, being the only woman in the Senate at the time she was first elected. Her legislative career mirrored her professional life as an educator and attorney in that she first served as Chair of the Education

Committee, the Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and Chair of the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure with the Senate, Senator Shedrick has served on many national legislative committees, including Southern Regional Education Board, serving as Executive Board Member and Treasurer; Education Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators; Law and Justice Committee of the Assembly on Federal Issues of the National Conference of State Legislatures; Member of the Justice and Consumer Affairs Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference; and

WHEREAS, Senator Shedrick has been recognized for distinguished legislative service by: The Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma; The Oklahoma State Department of Vocational Education; The Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association; Meridian Technology Center; "The Oklahoma Observer" as one of the Top Ten Legislators in 1984, 1989 and 1990; The Black Caucus of the Oklahoma Legislature, A.C. Hamlin Award (1991); Sac and Fox Industries, Ltd. for Leadership and Economic Development; Norman Chamber of Commerce "Legislator of the Year"; The American Society of Safety Engineers, for authoring a "model" Workers' Compensation law; The McWhorter-Wilson Veterans of American Wars, Post 1118; The Oklahoma Association of Children Under the Age of Six; Oklahoma School Counselors Association Legislative Award 1990; Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Award 1981; University Center at Tulsa, President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Outstanding Contribution Award 1993; Oklahoma Osteopathic College of Oklahoma State University Distinguished Service Award 1988 and 1993; and

WHEREAS, Senator Shedrick's commitment to achieving the best educational opportunities for all Oklahoma children and her steadfastness, creativity, and courage forged a climate of support for and excellence in common, vocational technical, and higher education. Senator Shedrick's debates on issues ranging from education funding to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution have been eloquent and moving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses its gratitude to Senator Bernice Shedrick for her years of service to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Senator Bernice Shedrick and extends best wishes upon the occasion of her retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Bernice Shedrick and her children, Crystal Dawn Shedrick Hayes and Steven Link Shedrick.