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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Frank Dermody, Democratic Leader  
423 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Leader Dermody:

I have been truly honored and blessed to serve the people of the 198<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Greater Philadelphia, and the citizens of this Commonwealth for twenty-six years. However, after much rumination and reflection, I have decided to retire. I have been blessed beyond measure to represent North and Northwest Philadelphia, but I know the time is right to step down from my position.

It has been a privilege to have been involved in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania politics most of my life. As a block captain, the ward leader for the 13<sup>th</sup> ward, and a member of the Democratic Executive Committee for 34 years I had the opportunity to know my neighbors and constituents in the 198<sup>th</sup>. I worked hard to listen to their concerns, understand their needs, and find solutions to their problems. I also served as a special assistant to the President of Philadelphia City Council. This experience taught me the inner workings of a very complex city and prepared me for what was to come.

In 1994, I won a special election to fill the House seat left vacant by my predecessor, the former Speaker of the House Robert O'Donnell, who resigned in order to run for Governor. I am forever grateful to Speaker O'Donnell for his support and for the support of all my constituents who cast the first votes in my favor in 1994, and those who continued to support me over my legislative career.

Through the years, I have sponsored and co-sponsored hundreds of legislative proposals on important policy issues such as domestic violence, anti-counterfeiting, employment protection for pregnant and sick employees, and equal pay for equal work. I worked to create the Kinship Care Program, update the Newborn Protection Act, and promote diaper need awareness. I was excited to be named Chairwoman of the Gaming Oversight Committee in 2011 and was a leading proponent of keeping the remaining Category 2 casino license in Philadelphia. I worked tirelessly to ensure that Pennsylvania's Gaming Industry remained successful and competitive through proper oversight and in the generation of tax revenue for property tax relief, and job creation. My ability to work on these issues and others was made possible by the support of my constituents. I

am forever grateful to them and to the outstanding and hardworking staff of both the Democratic and Republican Caucuses, both past and present.

In 2015, I was honored to be selected by my colleagues to be part of the House leadership team as the House Democratic Caucus Secretary. As the first African American female to hold a leadership post in the Pennsylvania General Assembly's history, I am humbled to have led the way for my peers.

During my tenure, I have experienced what it was like to be part of the majority and the minority party. I understand what it is like to be on the outside looking in, and I have worked diligently to have a seat at the table for the constituents in the 198<sup>th</sup> legislative district and the City of Philadelphia. I have aspired to be a voice for them and have never hesitated to do what was necessary, if it meant doing what was right and best for the people of the 198<sup>th</sup> and Philadelphia.

I have been humbled by the friendships I have made; after twenty-six years, my Democratic colleagues are more like family than co-workers. Thank you for your constant support and fellowship. My staff – both in Philadelphia and Harrisburg – are some of the best in the business. Thank you for your dedication and efforts. Thank you to my family for consistently understanding my hectic schedule. I am immeasurably blessed to have my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in my life. I am very excited to spend more time with them, and I am thankful to have the opportunity to watch them grow and thrive.

Finally, to my constituency, I truly appreciate you, and I hope that I served you with dignity and dedication. Above all else, this has been my goal since day one – to honorably serve and make you proud. This has been an incredible journey! The heartfelt gratitude I have for the privilege to serve as a State Legislator in the Pennsylvania House of Representative is immeasurable. Therefore, to all of you who made my election and re-elections possible, my colleagues, staff, and to the many people who have extended the hand of kindness over the years, with God's grace and mercy, I thank you.

With the utmost gratitude,



ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD  
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198<sup>th</sup> District