

Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee,

Kathryn Weit was an exemplary public servant. She was dogged in her pursuit of policies, programs, and legislation she believed people with developmental disabilities, their families and service providers needed and deserved. She was a fighter who hated to lose, not because her ego would get bruised, but because of what others would lose if she, and the advocacy communities she helped organize, did not prevail. Kathryn knew how to play by the rules – and bend the rules – yet never compromised her high ethical standards.

Kathryn was a leader's leader, never seeking the limelight, but often lighting the way for higher profile leaders to do the right thing. She was a queenmaker and kingmaker, nurturing leadership among rank-and-file advocates, and boosting nascent political leaders to greater heights. On occasion, she was even instrumental in deposing those who proved to be undeserving of their power and influence.

Kathryn Weit was feared by some, loved by many, and respected by nearly everyone who saw her in action. She has had a powerful, lasting effect on the lives of many people she knew and many she never met. Her legacy ensures that many more people will benefit from her efforts for years to come. And those of us who had the good fortune to work with her in the public arena and enjoy her friendship in our private lives –

we are doubly blessed.

Bill Lynch