



HR0327

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the Chicago  
4 Tribune for winning the 2016 Worth Bingham Prize and receiving  
5 2017 Pulitzer Prize Finalist recognition for Investigative  
6 Journalism; and

7           WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune received the prestigious  
8 recognition from Harvard for its three-part series, "Suffering  
9 in Secret"; the result of a yearlong investigation into the  
10 abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities in Illinois; and

11           WHEREAS, The report identified 1,311 cases of documented  
12 harm since July of 2011, and determined at least 42 deaths  
13 linked to abuse or neglect in group homes or their day programs  
14 over the last seven years; and

15           WHEREAS, Tribune reporters, Michael J. Berens and Patricia  
16 Callahan, revealed mistreatment inside Illinois  
17 taxpayer-funded group homes and their day programs; and

18           WHEREAS, The Tribune articles came to light thanks to the  
19 Murray Parents Association, which worked with the newspaper to  
20 expose the abuse and neglect which took place in group homes  
21 throughout the State; and

1           WHEREAS, In the course of their reporting, Berens and  
2 Callahan worked with more than 100 Freedom of Information Act  
3 requests, thousands of pages of court records, investigative  
4 files from multiple agencies, state email records, law  
5 enforcement reports, and medical records to identify cases and  
6 patterns of abuse; and

7           WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune staff worked as a team to  
8 produce the series which includes reporters, Michael J. Berens  
9 and Patricia Callahan; investigations editor, George Papajohn;  
10 watchdog editor, Kaarin Tissue; photographer, John J. Kim; copy  
11 editor, Colleen Kujawa; digital design and presentation  
12 editor, Rebecca Halleck; assistant data and graphics editor,  
13 Ryan Marx; and visuals editor, Andrew Johnston; and

14           WHEREAS, The 2016 Worth Bingham Prize will be presented to  
15 the Chicago Tribune on May 4, 2017 at the Nieman Foundation for  
16 Journalism at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts;  
17 this year marks the 50th anniversary of the prize, which many  
18 of the country's best investigative reporters have won since  
19 the award was established in 1967; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 recognize the Chicago Tribune staff for winning the 2016 Worth

1 Bingham Prize and receiving 2017 Pulitzer Prize Finalist  
2 recognition for Investigative Journalism; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Tribune reporters,  
5 Michael J. Berens and Patricia Callahan, and the Murray Parents  
6 Association as a symbol of our esteem and respect.