



HR0641

LRB097 14794 KXB 59820 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize SYESA (Struggling
4 Youth Equals Successful Adults) and its founders, Michael
5 Simelton, Tony Lawlor, and Antwan Turpeau, on being the first
6 non-profit youth organization in the State of Illinois to be
7 founded by 3 former foster youths; and

8 WHEREAS, The 3 men spent over 10 years of their lives as
9 wards of the State of Illinois; they all had multiple different
10 types of placements, attended multiple grammar and high
11 schools, and dealt with various other struggles; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael has a Master's Degree in Engineering and a
13 successful career with the Exelon Corporation; he is currently
14 the chairman of SYESA's Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Tony earned a IDCFS scholarship while he was in
16 care and used that scholarship to graduate from the University
17 of Illinois; he went on to have a successful career in the
18 jewelry business; he has earned national certification in youth
19 development; and

20 WHEREAS, Antwan has a Master's Degree in Social Work with a
21 specialization in Leadership and Development in Social

1 Services from Loyola University of Chicago; he has 10 years of
2 experience working with youth in psychiatric settings and in
3 the community; and he has also managed State contracts for 5
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, SYESA was founded on June 22, 2009; SYESA is a
6 youth organization whose primary focus is giving youth and
7 young adults the tools, connections, resources, and motivation
8 they need to overcome the past obstacles in their life and to
9 succeed in life; the organization believes that if foster
10 children can overcome their life struggle, and are provided
11 with proper skills, they will be able to be great leaders in
12 their communities; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we recognize Michael Simelton, Tony Lawlor, and Antwan Turpeau
16 for their work with SYESA; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to Michael Simelton, Tony Lawlor, and Antwan Turpeau
19 as symbols of our respect and esteem.