



HR0369

LRB098 12039 GRL 45994 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the staff, board of  
4 directors, and volunteers of Links North Shore Youth Health  
5 Service on the occasion of the organization's 40th anniversary;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, In the wake of the cultural changes of the late  
8 1960s, local social service agencies were seeing more teens  
9 dealing with issues related to sexuality, and there were few  
10 resources available; responding to these emerging community  
11 needs, a group of community leaders including clergy,  
12 physicians, and local professionals decided to act; and

13           WHEREAS, Links - North Shore Youth Health Service opened  
14 its doors on May 7, 1973 as a reproductive health care clinic  
15 in the basement of Northfield's Josselyn Center; it moved into  
16 its current space in Northfield in 1986; and

17           WHEREAS, While Links was initially offered to young women  
18 in high school, it has expanded over the years; in 1997, a  
19 separate clinic for young men was opened, which provides  
20 testing and treatment for the most common sexually transmitted  
21 infections; Links now provides services for teens and young  
22 adults up to age 25; between 500 and 600 clients a year go to

1 Links for services ranging from reproductive health care to  
2 counseling; and

3 WHEREAS, Links' Community Education program began in 1974  
4 with "Links on Wheels", a program where trained volunteers gave  
5 educational presentations about birth control and "venereal  
6 disease" to young people through schools and community groups;  
7 today, the Community Education Program offers 15 different  
8 programs to grades 5-12, covering responsible decision-making,  
9 healthy relationships, stress management, and practical issues  
10 such as the prevention of substance abuse, acquaintance rape,  
11 sexually transmitted infections, and unplanned pregnancy; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pride Youth Program, which provides support  
13 and education for teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
14 or transgender (LGBT), was founded in 1993 after a local high  
15 school student pointed out that there were no community  
16 services available to address the needs of this population; the  
17 Pride Youth Program now reaches over 200 LGBT youth a year,  
18 with weekly meetings in Northfield, Palatine, Evanston, and  
19 Gurnee; and

20 WHEREAS, From its tenuous beginnings, Links has  
21 transformed into a highly regarded community resource, where  
22 its 3 programs serve nearly 12,000 teens and young adults each  
23 year; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we congratulate the staff, board of directors, and volunteers  
4           of Links on the occasion of the organization's 40th anniversary  
5           and wish them continued success and happiness in the future;  
6           and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8           presented to Links as a symbol of our esteem and respect.