



HR1361

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize Nancy Gianni, founder of
4 Gigi's Playhouse, on being designated as one of CNN's Heroes in
5 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 450,000 individuals with Down syndrome live
7 in the United States; counting affected parents and siblings,
8 over two million people deal with the diagnosis every single
9 day; those that have Down syndrome and their families face
10 challenges that can stifle happiness, achievement, and
11 acceptance; it takes a great deal of work to give people with
12 Down syndrome a fighting chance for a full and happy life; and

13 WHEREAS, Nancy Gianni envisioned a better world, one full
14 of potential and acceptance; the first GiGi's Playhouse Down
15 Syndrome Achievement Center opened 12 years ago; open to all,
16 GiGi's is a place for families and the community to learn about
17 and celebrate the diagnosis of Down syndrome and benefit from
18 free therapeutic and educational programs; today there are 31
19 free-standing Playhouses throughout the United States and
20 Mexico, serving more than 25,000 participants and families;
21 programs are offered 100% free to all families so that cost
22 will never be a barrier to achievement and acceptance; and

1 WHEREAS, CNN Heroes is a year-long initiative that honors
2 everyday people for their selfless, creative efforts to help
3 others; 2016 marks the tenth year of the Peabody Award-winning,
4 Emmy-nominated campaign; each year, CNN receives thousands of
5 nominations from around the world; since 2007, the campaign has
6 profiled more than 200 CNN Heroes who are working in more than
7 80 countries around the world, helping hundreds of thousands of
8 people; and

9 WHEREAS, Millions are in need of feeling the touch of love
10 that is GiGi's Playhouse; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 recognize Nancy Gianni, founder of Gigi's Playhouse, on being
14 designated as one of CNN's Heroes in 2016; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Nancy Gianni as an expression of our esteem and
17 respect.