WHEREAS, Workers at Carousel Linen in Highwood, Illinois wash and press linens in hot and unsafe working conditions; several workers have reported suffering burns and other severe injuries in this strenuous working environment; and

WHEREAS, The Occupational Health and Safety Administration issued 11 citations against Carousel Linen for serious safety violations including blocking fire exits, failing to train workers on the use of hazardous chemicals, and requiring unlicensed workers to operate forklift trucks; and

WHEREAS, Workers at Carousel Linen work in these hard and dangerous jobs but only earn $5.15 an hour, well below standards for the laundry industry, with no family health insurance benefits regardless of their seniority; and

WHEREAS, The Carousel workers have repeatedly been denied requests for raises during their tenures on the pretext that they do not deserve monetary increases because they do not speak English; and

WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of Carousel Linen workers support forming a union; and

WHEREAS, Carousel Linen has been found by the National Labor Relations Board to have repeatedly violated federal labor law; workers have been on strike in response to these labor law violations since October, 2001; therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois House of Representatives supports the right of workers to organize a union free from harassment and retaliation; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives supports the striking Carousel Linen workers in their fight to form a union and improve their wages and working conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives calls on Carousel Linen to immediately improve the harsh and unsafe working conditions at its laundry, to voluntarily recognize the workers' union, and to bargain a fair agreement with their workers to end the six-month labor dispute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Scott Close at Carousel Linen.