



HR0011

LRB104 07496 ECR 17540 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Project Education Plus
4 (PEP) and its founder, Vince Carter, on the occasion of the
5 organization's 45th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, As of 2025, PEP has been serving the young
7 people, seniors, disadvantaged families, and children of the
8 Cabrini-Near North, Lincoln Park, Old Town, West Town, Near
9 West, and East Garfield Park communities in Chicago for 45
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1980, PEP has worked to
12 divert the anger, frustration, and negative attitudes of young
13 people growing up in disadvantaged environments into positive
14 learning experiences and constructive activities; and

15 WHEREAS, PEP's mission is to enlighten young people on how
16 to take advantage of educational, technological, and
17 recreational outlets in society and transfer that knowledge
18 into a successful, self-sufficient life; and

19 WHEREAS, Through the Maryann Donlon Senior Citizen
20 Program, PEP has branched out to meet the needs of local senior
21 citizens and older adults; the purpose of this program is to

1 give seniors a socializing base and some activities to do
2 rather than being shut in; the seniors meet to plan
3 activities, field trips, fundraisers, and social events;
4 during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, seniors are
5 treated to dinner and baskets of holiday items for their
6 families; these activities also serve as an intergenerational
7 component of PEP; and

8 WHEREAS, Another component of PEP is the SMART Program,
9 which is designed to provide academic enrichment to youth,
10 teens, and adults in the community and includes an
11 after-school program, a technology program, a summer math and
12 science camp, a high school and college mentoring program, and
13 a recreational program; and

14 WHEREAS, One of the highlights of PEP's recreational
15 program is the Chicago Demons baseball, basketball, and rugby
16 programs for boys and girls; these teams participate in city,
17 regional, and national tournaments and have visited many major
18 universities as part of their travels; and

19 WHEREAS, Vince Carter is the founder and executive
20 director of PEP, and he has worked for decades as a mathematics
21 teacher and head basketball coach at Von Steuben High School
22 in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) system; and

1 WHEREAS, Vince Carter was named a 2021 Chicago Peace
2 Fellow by the Goldin Institute for his work with PEP;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate Project Education Plus (PEP) and Vince Carter,
7 founder of PEP, on the occasion of the organization's 45th
8 anniversary; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 presented to PEP and to Vince Carter as an expression of our
11 respect and esteem and with best wishes for the continued
12 success of such an outstanding organization.