



HR0175

LRB104 12661 MST 23417 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The National Association of the Deaf recognizes
3 April as Deaf History Month to increase awareness of and
4 express appreciation for the many contributions that deaf and
5 hard-of-hearing individuals have made to our society; and

6 WHEREAS, According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, over
7 400,000 individuals in Illinois are deaf or hard of hearing;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Deaf culture is an important part of the fabric
10 of our society; and

11 WHEREAS, Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals have made
12 and continue to make numerous contributions to their local
13 communities, the state, and the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The American School for the Deaf opened in
15 Hartford, Connecticut on April 15, 1817 as the first public
16 school for the deaf in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Inspired by meeting an educated deaf man, State
18 Senator Orville H. Browning introduced and championed the
19 passage of a bill in 1839 to create what would become the
20 Illinois School for the Deaf, which opened its doors to

1 students in January of 1846 in Jacksonville, where it proudly
2 remains located to this day; and

3 WHEREAS, In April of 1864, President Abraham Lincoln, who
4 as a state legislator in Illinois supported the creation of
5 the Illinois School for the Deaf, signed a charter
6 establishing Gallaudet University, the first college in the
7 world for deaf students, named in honor of Thomas Hopkins
8 Gallaudet, who acted as an informal advisor to the first board
9 members of the Illinois School for the Deaf; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare April 2025 and April 2026 as Deaf History Month in
13 the State of Illinois and encourage Illinoisans to become
14 familiar with and celebrate the contributions of deaf
15 Illinoisans to our state and nation; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 provided to the Illinois Association of the Deaf, the Illinois
18 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, and the Illinois School
19 for the Deaf as a symbol of our respect and esteem.