



HR0363

LRB104 13718 ECR 26419 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to commend Kevin and Jaime Atwood for their continued work towards promoting suicide prevention and supporting those struggling with mental health issues through their organization, Foster's Voice, Inc.; and

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WHEREAS, Kevin and Jaime Atwood founded the non-profit Foster's Voice on July 30, 2017, nine days after their son, Foster Atwood, died by suicide at the age of 19; their organization's mission is to end suicide and the stigma around mental illness by improving the conversations around mental health and creating awareness, action, and hope; and

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WHEREAS, Through Foster's Voice, Kevin and Jaime Atwood provide mental health and suicide awareness curriculum, including mental health education, tools, and recommended resources, intended to be utilized to establish middle and high school mental health clubs to promote a safe environment to discuss mental health challenges without judgment while providing strategies to develop peer support; and

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WHEREAS, Foster's Voice established its inaugural Foster's Voice Club at United Township High School in East Moline in 2018, and now several other area schools have their own

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1 Foster's Voice Club; and

2 WHEREAS, Foster's Voice, to accommodate the growing needs
3 and interest in the community, launched a monthly women's
4 group and a young adult group in 2023 to promote safe spaces to
5 discuss mental health issues and to learn how to cope with
6 mental health struggles; and

7 WHEREAS, Foster's Voice has been acknowledged for its
8 positive impact on the community, with co-founder Jaime Atwood
9 being a recipient of a Nation of Neighbors Empowerment Award
10 and a \$10,000 grant in 2024; and

11 WHEREAS, Through Foster's Voice and its groups and school
12 clubs, Kevin and Jaime Atwood touch the lives of more than 350
13 individuals each month; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we commend Kevin and Jaime Atwood for their continued mental
17 health and suicide prevention work through their non-profit,
18 Foster's Voice, Inc.; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Kevin and Jaime Atwood as a symbol of our esteem
21 and respect.