



HR0588

LRB104 16410 ECR 29800 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Leo High School on the
4 occasion of its 100th anniversary of providing education to
5 young men on Chicago's South Side; and

6 WHEREAS, Leo High School opened its doors in the Auburn
7 Gresham neighborhood of Chicago on September 7, 1926; the
8 school started with more than 120 students and quickly grew
9 its class sizes and footprint while achieving acclaim for the
10 academic, athletic, and cultural activities of its students
11 and alumni; and

12 WHEREAS, Leo High School has reflected both the
13 opportunities and challenges present in its community and the
14 City of Chicago at large, most notably by being resilient in
15 the face of population loss and demographic change, evolving
16 from once having an all-white student body to having a student
17 body that is all-Black or Hispanic today; and

18 WHEREAS, At present, Leo High School has more than 200
19 enrolled students and features a student-to-teacher ratio of
20 13-to-1, ensuring that students and teachers are able to
21 benefit from enhanced student-teacher interactions and a more
22 active learning environment; and

1 WHEREAS, Leo High School offers a college preparatory
2 program and honors curriculum, providing students with a
3 well-rounded education to prepare them for higher education
4 and the workforce, and the school has boasted a 100%
5 graduation rate for over a decade; and

6 WHEREAS, Leo High School possesses a strong tradition of
7 providing extracurricular activities for students to develop
8 experiences and opportunities in leadership, teamwork, time
9 management, and networking; and

10 WHEREAS, Leo High School has a proud athletic tradition
11 that aims for students to develop character and discipline in
12 addition to sporting skills, which has helped its teams, the
13 Lions, to compete in more than 60 championships, earning
14 titles in track and field, football, and basketball; and

15 WHEREAS, Leo High School further has a talented men's
16 choir, which gained national recognition while competing and
17 being named a finalist on the competition show America's Got
18 Talent in 2025, and the choir has further honored the school
19 through performances at celebrations honoring Pope Leo XIV, a
20 Chicago area native, the 2024 Democratic National Convention
21 in Chicago, and as part of the 2025 Juneteenth Celebration at
22 Wrigley Field for the Chicago Cubs; and

1 WHEREAS, Leo High School leads its students with the motto
2 "Facta Non Verba", or "deeds, not words", as it prepares young
3 men to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and service from the
4 classroom to the community and through their futures; and

5 WHEREAS, Beginning in December 2025, Leo High School will
6 celebrate its centenary under the theme, "One Century, One
7 Brotherhood, One Leo", featuring a variety of events
8 continuing through 2026, including the Leo Lion Legacy
9 Scholarship Benefit and Christmas Concert, the Black History
10 Month celebration, various alumni celebrations, and a
11 centennial block party and time capsule; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate Leo High School on achieving its 100th
15 anniversary, providing a century of distinguished service and
16 dedication to the education of young men on Chicago's South
17 Side, and we thank the high school for its continued
18 resilience and unwavering commitment to this mission; and be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to
21 Leo High School President Dan McGrath and Principal Shaka
22 Rawls as a symbol of our esteem and respect.