



HR0629

LRB104 20382 MST 33839 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Speaker Emanuel  
4 "Chris" Welch and congratulate him on the fifth anniversary of  
5 his historic speakership; and

6 WHEREAS, Speaker Welch was elected Speaker of the Illinois  
7 House of Representatives on January 13, 2021; and

8 WHEREAS, Taking office as the 70th Speaker of the House in  
9 Illinois' 203-year history, Speaker Welch became the first  
10 African-American lawmaker to ever hold the office, a historic  
11 first in a state known for pioneering leaders; and

12 WHEREAS, Speaker Welch has followed through on his  
13 commitment to "a new day in Illinois", bringing a  
14 collaborative leadership style to the House, promoting greater  
15 openness and engagement, and undertaking efforts to  
16 professionalize the operations of the House; and

17 WHEREAS, Under Speaker Welch's leadership, the House has  
18 taken a leading role in major legislation, including state  
19 budgets that have rebuilt Illinois' fiscal house and restored  
20 the state to A-level credit, the Climate and Equitable Jobs  
21 Act of 2021, major affordability measures that included a new

1 child tax credit, cutting the state's grocery tax, eliminating  
2 over \$1 billion in old medical debt for tens of thousands of  
3 Illinois families, major healthcare reforms to make insurance  
4 better and more affordable by creating new oversight of  
5 premium increases, ending step therapy and pre-clearance  
6 gimmicks big insurance companies use to deny care, cracking  
7 down on the big pharma middlemen who drive up the cost of  
8 lifesaving prescriptions, the nation's strongest gun safety  
9 laws, and landmark investments and reforms to save public  
10 transit and create a system that more effectively and  
11 responsibly delivers affordable bus and train options for  
12 communities across the State; and

13 WHEREAS, In the pivotal moments facing our State, Speaker  
14 Welch has rallied a strong response, delivering new  
15 protections for women's rights, voting rights, due process  
16 rights, and workers' rights; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout his first five years in the role,  
18 Speaker Welch has assembled a diverse and dynamic team of  
19 leaders, committee chairs, emerging lawmakers, and talented  
20 staff, and he has empowered them all with the words he lives by  
21 "Winners do the work"; and

22 WHEREAS, Speaker Welch's historic speakership has changed  
23 Illinois for the better; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we recognize Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch and congratulate  
4 him on the fifth anniversary of his historic speakership; and  
5 be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we look forward to Speaker Welch's  
7 continued leadership on behalf of the people of our State; and  
8 be it further

9           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to Speaker Welch as a token of our respect and  
11 gratitude.