



HR0908

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization
3 officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic after the virus spread
4 to 114 countries; and

5 WHEREAS, The impact of the pandemic has been felt
6 globally, with over seven million deaths worldwide, including
7 more than 1,220,000 in the United States, 42,000 in Illinois,
8 and 8,000 in the City of Chicago; and

9 WHEREAS, This unprecedented event touched every citizen
10 and nation on Earth, excluding no one and resulting in shared
11 pain, loss, and challenges; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities of color and socioeconomically
13 disadvantaged populations were disproportionately impacted by
14 the higher degree of suffering caused by the pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 Memorial Monument Project is a
16 collective effort involving various organizations and
17 volunteers working to build a mission of honor, remembrance,
18 and resilience; and

19 WHEREAS, This project is led by the COVID-19 Monument
20 Commission under the aegis of the Hektoen Institute of

1 Medicine in collaboration with the Illinois Medical District
2 (IMD); and

3 WHEREAS, The Hektoen Institute has been a vital health
4 service and research organization for Chicago, addressing
5 mental health and substance use and serving as a leader in
6 hiring the city's COVID-19 contact tracers; and

7 WHEREAS, The chosen site for the physical monument is the
8 Illinois Medical District in Chicago, one of the nation's
9 largest urban medical districts, which serves as a hub for
10 premier hospitals and medical research; and

11 WHEREAS, The Global COVID-19 Monument was designed by
12 Sculpture Professor Casey Schachner, whose winning concept
13 utilizes the dandelion to symbolize both the virus's form and
14 the metaphysical notions of resilience and rebirth; and

15 WHEREAS, The monument will serve as a permanent virtual
16 and physical platform accessible 24/7, providing a space to
17 memorialize those lost, honor frontline and essential workers,
18 and celebrate the resilience of humanity; and

19 WHEREAS, The project aims to unveil this major outdoor
20 public sculpture and park in the Fall of 2026 to serve as a
21 site for education and preparation for future pandemics;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we commend the efforts of the COVID-19 Monument Commission and
5 the Hektoen Institute of Medicine for their work on the Global
6 COVID-19 Monument Project; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the COVID-19 Monument Commission as a symbol of
9 our respect and esteem for their dedication to honoring those
10 who served their communities throughout the pandemic and
11 remembering those we lost.