



HR0950

LRB101 23307 LAW 74464 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have, as  
3 a nation, been advised to adhere to all public health and CDC  
4 guidelines in order to prevent further spread; and

5 WHEREAS, While most have yielded and exercised  
6 responsibility, there are marginalized groups of workers in  
7 essential sectors all across the State who are inadvertently  
8 exempt and unable to adhere to the advisory; and

9 WHEREAS, Farm, agricultural, and manufacturing workers,  
10 all of whom must leave their homes day in and day out to assist  
11 in the cultivation, harvest, and preparation of the food and  
12 produce we put on our tables, find themselves within this  
13 unprotected marginalized group; and

14 WHEREAS, The nature of this painstaking and backbreaking  
15 work, in addition to the equipment necessary to perform it,  
16 makes social distancing impractical and impossible for  
17 workers, which puts them at a heightened risk of contracting  
18 the COVID-19 virus; and

19 WHEREAS, Since mid-March, President Donald J. Trump has  
20 correctly analogized the fight against the COVID-19 virus as a  
21 war and has since used presidential wartime powers to combat

1 the virus; and

2 WHEREAS, Farm, agricultural, and manufacturing workers,  
3 especially those who cannot practice social distancing at work,  
4 as well as their immediate families, are arguably mirroring the  
5 risks taken by our military personnel during the COVID-19  
6 crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, Federal law currently grants the right to  
8 naturalization and citizenship to all English-speaking persons  
9 of good moral character who serve in our armed forces during  
10 wartime or hostilities, even when undocumented; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly fifty percent of farm, agricultural, and  
12 manufacturing workers currently laboring during this pandemic  
13 crisis have been labeled essential workers by state and federal  
14 governments alike; it is our duty to reciprocate their  
15 sacrifice by assisting and providing them with a path to  
16 residency followed by a path to naturalization; therefore, be  
17 it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we urge Congress and the President of the United States to  
21 grant the right and privilege of United States residency to all  
22 farm, agricultural, and manufacturing workers who have served

1 and labored during the COVID-19 crisis; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That this right and privilege of residency should  
3 be granted without regard to previous immigration status; and  
4 be it further

5       RESOLVED, That, in order to facilitate the identification  
6 of these essential workers, employers and their agents should  
7 be granted immunity from any adverse action for having  
8 employed, or otherwise acquired the services of, persons who  
9 were identified as being essential workers during the COVID-19  
10 crisis; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12 delivered to the President of the United States and the leaders  
13 of the U.S. House and Senate.