



HR0441

LRB102 19959 LAW 28740 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Christa A. Hamilton on her election as president and CEO of UCAN; and

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WHEREAS, UCAN was founded as a Civil War orphanage 152 years ago and now serves more than 21,000 children, youths, and families around Chicago; during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has been a critical provider of essential services since March 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Christa Hamilton is a native Chicagoan and was born in the Englewood community; she is a first-generation college graduate, earning her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Florida A&M University and her MBA from National Louis University; and

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WHEREAS, Christa Hamilton has devoted her career to improving the lives of others in resilient communities and centering equity in all aspects; prior to her appointment, she worked in both corporate and store operations at Walgreens for six years, as a consultant for the Department of Labor for two years, and as the director of Workforce Development at the Centers for New Horizons for three years before succeeding the founder as executive director and CEO in 2014; while there,

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1 she distinguished herself as a turnaround leader who nearly
2 doubled the organization's budget to \$17 million while
3 overseeing more than 300 full-time and part-time staff in
4 programs across 15 locations throughout Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, Christa Hamilton is a community and civic leader;
6 she serves on the boards for Instituto del Progreso Latino and
7 the Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition; she is a fellow of
8 Leadership Greater Chicago, a member of the Social Services
9 Advisory Council with the Illinois Department of Human
10 Services, and a member of the University of Chicago Advisory
11 Council; and

12 WHEREAS, Christa Hamilton will be both the first African
13 American and the first woman to lead UCAN; she will succeed
14 Interim President and CEO Thomas Vanden Berk on September 13,
15 2021; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Christa A. Hamilton on her election as
19 president and CEO of UCAN, and we wish her the best in her new
20 role; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Christa Hamilton as an expression of our esteem

1 and respect.