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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate John Voit on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO of UCP Seguin on November 11, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, John Voit has been a leader in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Illinois for over 50 years; he began his career as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) after leaving St. Procopius College (Benedictine University) in 1970 and a brief stint in the U.S. Army; his first job was on the front lines of providing support to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, John Voit spent 22 years at the Ray Graham Association, starting in 1972 as a floor supervisor and eventually serving as executive director, furthering his commitment for those with IDD to live integrated into their community and have the supports they need to realize their dreams of work, a place to call home, inclusion in their neighborhood, and opportunities to be productive, valued members of society; and

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WHEREAS, In 1998, John Voit became President and CEO of Seguin Services Inc. (UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago), an

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1 organization that started in 1949 and incorporated in 1976  
2 when a group of parents in the western suburbs of Chicago  
3 responded to a lack of public education and other models of  
4 care for persons with disabilities; he helped Seguin Services  
5 develop into one the largest and most respected community  
6 services providers to persons with IDD in Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Under John Voit's leadership over the past 23  
8 years, UCP Seguin's annual budget, now nearly \$50 million, has  
9 tripled as he has championed expansion and increased quality  
10 of services to individuals with IDD; and

11 WHEREAS, For his entire career and especially at UCP  
12 Seguin, John Voit has been successful in developing community  
13 integrated housing options for people with IDD, including  
14 those individuals transitioning from state-operated facilities  
15 "going home" to settings fully included in their communities,  
16 and has presided over the growth of residential services to  
17 now serve nearly 300 individuals in more than 75 homes  
18 scattered over 33 communities, such that UCP Seguin has become  
19 one of the largest and most successful providers of  
20 residential services in Illinois, all the while ensuring that  
21 each home is fully accessible and fitted with fire safety  
22 equipment; and

23 WHEREAS, Under John Voit's command, UCP Seguin has nearly

1 doubled its Children's Foster Care services to children and  
2 adolescents with specialized medical and behavioral  
3 challenges, providing permanent, safe, and loving homes for  
4 abused and neglected children with disabilities and other  
5 special needs from birth to college age, while emphasizing  
6 community inclusion and effective transition into adult  
7 services; and

8 WHEREAS, John Voit led UCP Seguin's efforts in the  
9 formation of a variety of social enterprises collectively  
10 entitled Seguin Enterprises, which for the past two decades  
11 have provided gainful employment for people with IDD while  
12 securing discretionary earned income to support services  
13 through two core businesses, Seguin Auto Center and Seguin  
14 Gardens & Gifts; and

15 WHEREAS, With John Voit at the helm, UCP Seguin has  
16 responded to the growing population of seniors with IDD  
17 through the establishment of the innovative SeniorCares group  
18 home initiative and the founding of the Betty Scheck Senior  
19 Center Day Services program; and

20 WHEREAS, Drawing from his experience with his daughter  
21 with IDD, John Voit led efforts to establish the Building  
22 Bridges to the Future transition to adulthood initiative,  
23 which now annually supports more than 380 special education

1 students and their families in accessing post-secondary  
2 community-inclusive service and education options; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2013, John Voit presided over the merger of  
4 two major and widely respected nonprofits, Seguin Services and  
5 United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago, which have since  
6 become UCP Seguin, constituting a momentous step to share  
7 competencies, expertise, and resources while achieving greater  
8 operational efficiencies and reduced costs and becoming  
9 well-positioned to provide more and better programs and  
10 services to help persons with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, Under John Voit's leadership, the newly merged  
12 UCP Seguin organization has grown its pioneering multi-state  
13 Infnitec assistive technology and training services program,  
14 expanding to promote opportunities for inclusion and  
15 independence for children and adults with disabilities through  
16 assistive technology, information and training, and access to  
17 equipment and specialists; and

18 WHEREAS, Due to his belief that collaboration with peer  
19 organizations and respective stakeholders strengthens  
20 collective advocacy and offers greater opportunities for the  
21 services that people with IDD deserve, John Voit led the  
22 effort in 2017 to establish the They Deserve More (TDM)  
23 Coalition, which is comprised of community providers across

1 Illinois, statewide associations, and individual stakeholders  
2 and has since been successful, for the first time in over a  
3 decade, in improving and expanding services to people with IDD  
4 and stabilizing the community service system through provision  
5 of a living wage for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); and

6 WHEREAS, While there have been many challenges throughout  
7 John Voit's many years in a leadership role, he has led UCP  
8 Seguin through its greatest challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic,  
9 successfully working to keep people with disabilities,  
10 employees, foster parents, and the public safe and healthy,  
11 taking the lead on providing testing, vaccinations, and other  
12 safety measures while also collaborating with peer  
13 organizations and public health providers; and

14 WHEREAS, John Voit's vision for UCP Seguin is to forge  
15 boldly ahead with its mission, enabling all individuals served  
16 to achieve their potential, advance their independence, and  
17 act as full members of the community, as UCP Seguin stops at  
18 nothing to provide life skills training, assistive technology,  
19 meaningful employment, and a place to call home for people  
20 with disabilities, as well as specialized foster care for  
21 children, and helps them reach the ultimate goal of life  
22 without limits for people with disabilities; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate John Voit on his retirement as President and  
3 CEO of UCP Seguin and on his transition into a new role as  
4 Relationship Manager and commend his commitment to the  
5 thousands of individuals that have benefited from his  
6 leadership in the IDD community provider system throughout  
7 Illinois and for those cared for by UCP Seguin; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we thank John Voit for his lifelong  
10 commitment to those with disabilities, thank the staff that  
11 work every day to help each and every person live their best  
12 life with the greatest level of independence, and thank UCP  
13 Seguin for continuing to design and deliver quality  
14 outcome-based, person-centered services and supports for  
15 individuals who have developmental disabilities; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 presented to John Voit, former President and CEO of UCP Seguin  
19 of Greater Chicago.