



HR0347

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize State Representative
4 William Burns for his service and hard work on behalf of the
5 people of the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Burns was raised in Warrensville
7 Heights, an inner-ring suburb of Cleveland, Ohio; he moved to
8 Chicago to attend the University of Chicago, where he received
9 his bachelor's and master's degrees; in 2001 he was named an
10 American Marshall Memorial Fellow of the German Marshall Fund
11 of the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Burns served as Education and Tax
13 Policy Manager for the Metropolitan Planning Council, where he
14 organized a statewide education funding reform coalition and
15 directed its legislative and communication campaign; he later
16 joined the Chicago Urban League, serving as Vice President of
17 Program and Field Offices, where he spearheaded the League's
18 voting rights and redistricting efforts, managed the
19 day-to-day programmatic activities, and coordinated the
20 League's public policy initiatives; and

21 WHEREAS, After concluding his service with the Chicago
22 Urban League, Representative Burns joined the staff of Senate

1 President Emil Jones, Jr., working his way up to Deputy Chief
2 of Staff and Senior Advisor; he developed legislation on issues
3 including criminal justice, consumer protection, education,
4 minority business development, and ethics reform; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Burns played a role in the early
6 public service career of former State Senator and now President
7 of the United States Barack Obama, serving as a volunteer on
8 President Obama's first State Senate campaign and as Deputy
9 Campaign Manager for Obama for Congress 2000; his experience as
10 a political organizer also includes service as a campaign
11 coordinator for the Democratic Party of Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Burns was elected to the House of
13 Representatives in 2008 and he is currently serving his second
14 term; although Representative Burns' tenure with the Illinois
15 House of Representatives has been short, his hard work and
16 dedication have been invaluable to his constituents and to all
17 the people of Illinois; he has developed a reputation as a
18 hardworking, ethical, thoughtful, and intelligent legislator
19 who puts the needs of the people first; and

20 WHEREAS, Government reforms have been a hallmark of
21 Representative Burns' legislative agenda, as he sponsored
22 measures to reform the State's procurement code, pensions,
23 campaign finance laws, and Freedom of Information Act, thus

1 improving government transparency and accountability; and

2 WHEREAS, In his efforts to help eliminate gun violence,
3 Representative Burns has pushed for tougher laws on gun
4 ownership, purchasing and transfers, limitations on the types
5 of weapons that should be allowed for sale, and laws to help
6 stop gun trafficking and illegal straw purchasing; he has
7 championed additional funding for anti-violence and
8 after-school programs that help provide alternatives to crime
9 and violence; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Burns believes that in order for
11 young people to compete in a global economy, they must have a
12 quality education; he sponsored legislation to improve
13 Illinois' education system, including measures to provide
14 additional funding for local schools, reduced class sizes, and
15 improved early education programs; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Burns maintains a strong
17 commitment to social justice and civic engagement; he has
18 served on the boards of non-profit organizations, including the
19 Lugenia Burns Hope Center, Mikva Challenge, Sargent Shriver
20 National Center on Poverty Law, the Center for Tax and Budget
21 Accountability, the Blue Gargoyle Youth Service Center, and the
22 South East Chicago Commission; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Burns is devoted to his wife,
2 Robin, and to their daughter, Athena; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Burns was recently elected
4 Alderman of Chicago's 4th Ward, a role that will allow him to
5 continue to advocate for the people; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Representative Will Burns on his ascension to
9 the Chicago City Council after his retirement from the Illinois
10 House of Representatives; we wish him the best as he begins his
11 new journey of public service; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Representative Burns as a symbol of our respect
14 and esteem.