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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Sue Purrington, who passed away on November 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Sue Purrington was born in Athens, Ohio to Reverend and Mrs. Robert Purrington on July 28, 1938; and

WHEREAS, Sue Purrington was a champion of progressive social values; she dedicated her career to advancing racial justice, gender equality, reproductive rights, and supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Sue Purrington was passionate about racial equality; she was a member of the "freedom wade-in" group that racially integrated Chicago's Rainbow Beach in the 1960s; she was a tireless advocate for former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and former United States Senator Carol Mosley Braun; and

WHEREAS, Sue Purrington was a defender of reproductive rights; she was an early participant in the Jane Collective, an organization helping provide women access to safe abortions before Roe v. Wade; she went on to become the Chair of the Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance; and

1 WHEREAS, Sue Purrington was a fierce defender of women's
2 rights; she was brought on to the Chicago chapter of the
3 National Organization for Women (NOW) to help fight for the
4 Equal Rights Amendment, and went on to become its Executive
5 Director; she and NOW worked closely with groups like Women
6 Employed, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and the Chicago
7 Abortion Fund; during her tenure, her group opposed the
8 nomination of Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme
9 Court and supported the election of the first African American
10 woman, Carol Mosley Braun, to the United States Senate; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Sue Purrington worked on
12 many progressive political campaigns; she spent many years as a
13 trusted aide to fifth ward Alderman Leslie Hairston; and

14 WHEREAS, Sue Purrington worked tirelessly for her causes,
15 whether it was handing out flyers on street corners, riding on
16 the bus to a march in Washington D.C., or sitting at a table
17 making phone call after phone call to win support for a
18 favorite cause or candidate; and

19 WHEREAS, Sue Purrington is survived by her sister, Jane
20 Brewster Purrington; her brother, Robert Daniel Purrington;
21 and many cousins, nieces, and nephews; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we,
3 along with her family and friends, mourn the passing of Sue
4 Purrington; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Sue Purrington as an expression of
7 our sympathy.