



HR1195

LRB100 22842 ALS 41824 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor Keith Kelleher, former President of Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, for his hard work and dedication, as he retires on September 14, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher's early work in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Detroit in the early 1980s led him to make a lifelong commitment to organizing for social and economic justice; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher served as President of the Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas from its creation in April 2008 until April 2017; he has held the positions of Field Organizer, Lead Organizer, and Head Organizer of Legacy Local 880 since 1983 and, prior to that, Head Organizer of United Labor Unions Local 222 in Detroit, MI since 1980; and

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WHEREAS, In his 39 years of work as a labor and community organizer, Keith Kelleher has pioneered the organization of fast food, home care, child care, and other low-wage workers, growing Legacy Local 880 from just seven members in 1983 to over 70,000 members by 2008; he grew SEIU HCIIMK from 83,000

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1 members in 2008 to over 92,000 members by 2014 and won living  
2 wages and first-ever healthcare for tens of thousands of  
3 Illinois workers; and

4 WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher was the Field Director of the  
5 National SEIU's "Homecare Task Force" from 1996 until 1998; he  
6 traveled, researched, and housed visiting homecare workers in  
7 over ten states and began the work that led to the organization  
8 of hundreds of thousands of home care workers across the  
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, more than 600,000 home care and child care  
11 workers in more than 15 states across the country are united in  
12 SEIU, fighting for a better standard of living for themselves  
13 and their families, joining with nursing home and hospital  
14 workers to become a national movement for quality care and  
15 quality jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher was a founder and a leader in the  
17 National SEIU Homecare Council, composed of leaders from over  
18 15 local unions; and

19 WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher was a Board Member and then Vice  
20 President of the SEIU Illinois State Council which, during his  
21 years of service service, grew from 70,000 to over 120,000  
22 members; and

1           WHEREAS, As an organizer, Keith Kelleher has been  
2 privileged to train hundreds of rank and file leaders and  
3 organizers throughout his career; and

4           WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher helped found the Helen Miller  
5 Member Education and Training Center (METC), which has trained  
6 thousands of home care and child care workers, as well as the  
7 SEIU HCIIMK Homecare and Childcare Health Trust Fund, which  
8 brought first-time health care to over 15,000 home care and  
9 child care workers; and

10           WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher's conviction, integrity, and  
11 foresight helped initiate several grassroots organizing  
12 initiatives, including the Grassroots Collaborative, "Fight  
13 for \$15" and "United Working Families"; and

14           WHEREAS, Keith Kelleher was a founder and the leader of the  
15 "Chicago Jobs and Living Wage Campaign" and the "Big Box Living  
16 Wage Campaign" from the 1990s until the 2000s, which led to the  
17 increases in the Chicago and Illinois minimum wage and  
18 benefitted hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Chicago  
19 and Illinois Workers; and

20           WHEREAS, In recognition of his historic accomplishments in  
21 organizing and with the labor movement, Keith Kelleher was

1 elected as an SEIU International Executive Board Vice President  
2 from June 2008 until 2017; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 congratulate Keith Kelleher on his hard work for Service  
6 Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois, Indiana,  
7 Missouri, Kansas and others, and we wish him the best as he  
8 retires from this position; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to Keith Kelleher as an expression of our esteem and  
11 respect.