



HR0856

LRB101 21382 LAW 72136 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, May 12th marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a woman whose trailblazing spirit laid the foundation for nurses to be recognized for their work today; and

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WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale was born in Italy to a wealthy aristocratic family on May 12, 1820, and she grew up in England; as a teenager, she felt a strong desire to become a nurse, although the profession was not considered respectable in Victorian society; despite her family's disapproval, she educated herself in arts and science and gained some nursing experience in Germany; and

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WHEREAS, During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale was appointed to lead 38 volunteer nurses at a military hospital in Scutari, in modern-day Turkey, in November 1854; she encountered horrible conditions, surrounded by unclean hospital wards and more soldiers dying of diseases than from battle wounds; and

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WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale remained steadfast, taking several measures to improve sanitation and hygiene at the hospital, including washing the linens, purchasing necessary kitchen supplies, and emphasizing handwashing with soap and

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1 water, which was not widely practiced at the time; she was
2 noted for caring for both common soldiers and officers equally;
3 she earned her famous moniker "Lady with the Lamp" for checking
4 on her patients by lamplight, often writing letters to their
5 loved ones at home on their behalf; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite Florence Nightingale's efforts, the
7 mortality rate continued to rise through 1855; she had
8 mistakenly believed that nutrition and supply problems were the
9 main cause of death, but poor sanitation and contaminated water
10 were the more lethal culprits; she returned to Britain in 1856;
11 she had learned from her experience, developing better sanitary
12 practices in addition to more efficient hospital planning and
13 design; and

14 WHEREAS, For the next 50 years of her life, Florence
15 Nightingale prioritized the establishment of nursing as a
16 respected profession; she wrote a book titled Notes on Nursing
17 in 1859 that was written in simple language intended for women
18 who were providing nursing care in the home to understand, and
19 it is still regarded as a pioneering text; she also set up the
20 world's first training school for nurses in 1860, which still
21 runs today; and

22 WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale's bicentennial comes at a
23 poignant time for nurses as they stand on the front lines of

1 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

2 WHEREAS, Nurses play a critical role in health promotion,
3 disease prevention, and the delivery of care in all settings;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois has 185,992 registered nurses living and
6 working in the State, of which 13,746 are also licensed as
7 advanced practice registered nurses, and 24,763 licensed
8 practical nurses, making nursing the largest licensed health
9 care profession; and

10 WHEREAS, The care provided by nurses in Illinois is the
11 primary component to a successful health care delivery system;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The inherent sense of duty nurses possess has been
14 on full display in Illinois; they continue to serve as their
15 patients' last line of defense, to adapt at a moment's notice
16 as treatments and practices evolve to better combat COVID-19,
17 and to champion the need to be with patients until the very end
18 at the risk of their own health and lives; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we commend nurses for continuing the legacy of Florence

1 Nightingale in their continued care of patients and for their
2 resolve during the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we recognize the vital role of nurses in
4 promoting and providing health care to the residents of
5 Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Advocate Aurora Health, Amita Health, Loyola
8 University Medical Center, Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola
9 University Chicago, Rush University Health, Academy of Medical
10 Surgical Nurses Chicago Chapter #317, the Illinois Nurses
11 Foundation, Lewis University College of Nursing and Health
12 Science, all colleges and trading schools that offer nursing
13 programs in the state of Illinois, and Illinois museums and
14 libraries.