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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) on the occasion of its 45th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, PILI engages, inspires, and empowers those advancing equal access to justice by connecting members of the legal community with those in need of legal assistance; and

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WHEREAS, PILI envisions making equal access to justice a reality through a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of service, where pro bono and public interest law engagement is optimized to best serve people, families, and communities in need; and

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WHEREAS, PILI and its Law Student Internship Program were established in 1977 to improve awareness of public interest law and provide access to justice for those without resources, which led to the establishment of its Graduate Fellowship Program in 1983; and

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WHEREAS, As the mission and work of the organization continued to evolve and grow, PILI officially took the name it uses today in 1993; and

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1           WHEREAS, In the 1990s and 2000s, PILI's growth continued  
2 with the addition of its Pro Bono Program and the  
3 formalization of its Alumni Program structure; and

4           WHEREAS, Over the last decade, PILI has continued as a  
5 national leader in supporting law students working in the  
6 public interest law sector, funding more interns than ever and  
7 placing them throughout Illinois; the organization's pro bono  
8 efforts continue to grow and adapt based on the unmet legal  
9 needs of communities across the State; additionally, the  
10 organization has nearly 5,000 alumni spanning the profession  
11 and the globe; and

12           WHEREAS, Through its programs, PILI has created  
13 cross-state, grassroots collaborations to address critical  
14 gaps within the legal system; the organization continues  
15 working to build a legal community with a deeply rooted  
16 culture of service, where law students, lawyers, and legal  
17 professionals at all stages of their careers engage in public  
18 interest law or pro bono work, and it remains committed to  
19 addressing the unmet legal needs of low-income and  
20 marginalized Illinoisans; and

21           WHEREAS, For its 45th anniversary, PILI has adopted "Take  
22 the Initiative" as its theme to focus on emulating the example  
23 of its founders by taking the initiative and helping more

1 people in need of civil legal aid; and

2 WHEREAS, PILI will celebrate its anniversary at the 45th  
3 Anniversary Awards Gala on December 1, 2022; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we congratulate the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) on  
7 its 45th anniversary, and we commend the organization for its  
8 dedication to serving those in need; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to PILI Executive Director Michael G. Bergmann as an  
11 expression of our esteem and respect.