



SR0431

LRB102 19014 LAW 27742 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Lawrence J. "Larry" Biondi, who passed away on June 28, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Larry Biondi was born on February 17, 1963; and

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WHEREAS, Larry Biondi worked as the advocacy manager of the Progress Center for Independent Living for 28 years, where he led the center's community organizers and organized and implemented strategies to improve housing, transportation, public access, and health care for the disability community; he was well known for his legislative training course, which he and his team offered twice a year, held once a week over the course of ten weeks, and culminated in a trip to Springfield, where students met with State politicians and their staffs and applied the skills they learned during the course; he was the center's longest serving employee; and

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WHEREAS, As a person with a disability, Larry Biondi hired and managed his own personal assistants, who gave him the ability to focus on his job; he knew the essential link between accommodations, independence, and inclusion for people with disabilities; without personal assistants, he would not have been able to live on his own and, understanding that link, he

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1 never stopped fighting to strengthen and build systems of
2 community services so that all people with disabilities had
3 the opportunity to access services and live independently; and

4 WHEREAS, Larry Biondi also dedicated his time to Chicago
5 ADAPT, a grass roots disability advocacy organization, and
6 National ADAPT; he attended hundreds of local and national
7 ADAPT demonstrations; he also participated in civil
8 disobedience when local, regional, and national entities
9 failed to recognize the needs and rights of people with
10 disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, At the front end of the COVID-19 pandemic, Larry
12 Biondi actively engaged in and remained committed to two new
13 coalitions throughout the pandemic; as a member of the PPE for
14 People with Disabilities Coalition, he joined the effort to
15 ensure that people with disabilities in Chicagoland and their
16 personal assistants had access to personal protective
17 equipment; with the Institutional Rescue and Recovery
18 Coalition, he also advocated for residents of long-term
19 facilities, who suffered an alarming mortality rate during the
20 Covid-19 crisis; and

21 WHEREAS, Larry Biondi was a proud advocate for social
22 justice, especially for those persons with disabilities, and
23 he tirelessly fought for disability rights for 28 years; he

1 rarely turned down an opportunity to speak to a group of
2 students, join a coalition, or attend a meeting, so long as he
3 had a chance to raise awareness about disability, learn more
4 about issues, and empower other people with disabilities; his
5 leadership and legacy will be remembered by his colleagues at
6 the Progress Center for Independent Living and ADAPT; and

7 WHEREAS, Larry Biondi was the son of the late Beatrice
8 (Zimmerman) and Roy Biondi; the nephew of Anna Marie Pierotti
9 and Fr. Lawrence Biondi, S.J.; the cousin of Anita Kidd, Maria
10 Pierotti, and Peter Pierotti; and the cousin of Atina, Peter,
11 Nicholas, Matteo, Giana, Luca, and many other Zimmerman
12 cousins; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Lawrence J. "Larry" Biondi and extend our sincere condolences
16 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Larry Biondi as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.