



HR0065

LRB103 30789 ECR 57280 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor the life of Zeke Upshaw and to
4 raise awareness of the risk of cardiac arrest in young
5 athletes; and

6 WHEREAS, Zeke Upshaw was born in Chicago on May 27, 1991;
7 he began playing organized basketball at the age of six; he
8 attended the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools on
9 scholarship, where he became the school's first basketball
10 player to receive a professional basketball contract; he began
11 playing college basketball at Illinois State University in
12 2009, where he obtained a degree in Apparel, Merchandising,
13 and Design; he continued his education and passion for
14 basketball by transferring to Hofstra University for his final
15 season with NCAA eligibility, and he earned his Master of
16 Science in Education in Higher Education Leadership and Policy
17 Studies; and

18 WHEREAS, Zeke Upshaw began his professional basketball
19 career overseas with the Helios Suns in Slovenia in 2014; he
20 then played with the team Basket Esch in Luxembourg from 2015
21 to 2016; that same year, he returned to the United States and
22 joined the Grand Rapids Drive, an American professional
23 basketball team of the NBA G League based in Michigan and an

1 affiliate of the Detroit Pistons in the National Basketball
2 Association (NBA); and

3 WHEREAS, In the midst of obtaining his education, grueling
4 practices, and exhaustive games, Zeke Upshaw always found time
5 to give back to his community through volunteer work and youth
6 mentorship; and

7 WHEREAS, On March 24, 2018, after scoring 11 points in the
8 regular-season finale and propelling the Grand Rapid Drive
9 into a playoff spot with a 101-99 home win, Zeke Upshaw
10 suddenly collapsed on the court; two days later, he passed
11 away from sudden cardiac death on March 26 at the age of 26;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of
14 death in young athletes; estimates vary, but some reports
15 suggest that about one in 50,000 to one in 80,000 young
16 athletes die of sudden cardiac death each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest for young
18 athletes include unexplained fainting that occurs during
19 activity or exercise, shortness of breath or chest pain, and a
20 family history of sudden cardiac death; and

21 WHEREAS, Medication, surgery, and the ceasing of athletic

1 activity can all lower the risk of sudden cardiac arrest in
2 young athletes; and

3 WHEREAS, Athletic centers having readily available access
4 to an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable
5 device that delivers shocks to reset the heart during cardiac
6 arrest, can also lower the risk of death from sudden cardiac
7 arrest; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we honor the memory of Zeke Upshaw and wish to raise awareness
11 of the risk of cardiac arrest in young athletes; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Zeke Upshaw as a symbol of our
15 esteem, our respect, and our deepest sympathy.