



HR0311

LRB103 32574 LAW 62171 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Bear Necessities Foundation on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, In 1992, Bear Necessities was founded by Kathleen A. Casey following the death of her son, Barrett "Bear" Krupa, who passed away after fighting pediatric cancer for five-and-a-half years; and

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WHEREAS, Kathleen Casey discussed creating Bear Necessities with her eight-year-old son during his courageous battle with Wilms Tumor, when he expressed concern for other pediatric cancer patients, showing more concern for others than for himself; and

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WHEREAS, Bear Necessities was born from the need of patients and their families for support above and beyond standard medical care; and

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WHEREAS, Bear Necessities, through its Bear Hug program, partners with families to make children's dreams come true through a close network of friends, donors, and volunteers; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bear Necessities' work is scientifically backed
2 to produce better psychosocial outcomes for children with
3 cancer, inspiring children to build the strength to cope with
4 their illnesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Bear Necessities provides patients receiving MIBG
6 radiation treatment with room decorations, soft blankets,
7 toys, and more to be more comfortable and happy while
8 receiving treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Bear Discoveries works in tandem to create a
10 world without pediatric cancer, partnering with Alex's
11 Lemonade Stand Foundation to support pediatric cancer
12 research; and

13 WHEREAS, Since its partnership began in 2022, Bear
14 Necessities has contributed \$200,000 to Alex's Lemonade Stand
15 Foundation to make a greater impact in the search for a cure to
16 pediatric cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, Bear Necessities also provides financial relief
18 to families who qualify for Bear Hugs, partners members of
19 their Young Professionals Board with Bear Hug recipients to
20 cheer them on in their fight against cancer, offers activities
21 in the Chicagoland for their families, offers counseling in
22 partnership with SamaraCare Counseling, and offers Hope

1 Education Scholarships to provide those touched by pediatric
2 cancer with hope for a brighter future; and

3 WHEREAS, Bear Necessities, from its Chicago headquarters
4 to its Florida chapter in southwest Florida, achieves its
5 mission in helping kids rediscover their childhood while a
6 cure is sought for pediatric cancer; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate the Bear Necessities Foundation on its 30th
10 anniversary, and we commend the foundation for its honorable
11 mission in giving children fighting pediatric cancer the
12 precious gift of a childhood; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we continue to walk with children and
14 families affected by the tragedy and difficulty of pediatric
15 cancer, and we continue to work towards a world with a cure for
16 pediatric cancer; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we congratulate Bear Necessities Pediatric
18 Cancer Foundation CEO Kate Tillotson and founder Kathleen A.
19 Casey for helping children with pediatric cancer in the
20 Chicagoland and southwestern Florida communities for 30 years,
21 and we thank them for all they do to fight for a world where no
22 child is touched by pediatric cancer; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 presented to Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation CEO
3 Kate Tillotson and founder Kathleen A. Casey as an expression
4 of our esteem and respect.