



HR0429

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to commend the Reverend Jesse Lewis  
4 Jackson on founding the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and its legacy  
5 of making a difference; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1962, the Southern Christian Leadership  
7 Conference launched Operation Breadbasket in Atlanta, Georgia;  
8 in 1966, Reverend Jackson began leading Operation Breadbasket  
9 in Chicago; and

10           WHEREAS, In 1971, Reverend Jackson launched his own  
11 economic empowerment organization called Operation PUSH  
12 (People United to Serve Humanity); and

13           WHEREAS, In 1984, following his first presidential  
14 campaign, Reverend Jackson launched the National Rainbow  
15 Coalition, which sought equal rights for all Americans; a  
16 central thrust of the Coalition was the demand for social  
17 programs, voting rights, and affirmative action for minority  
18 groups; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1996, the National Rainbow Coalition and  
20 Operation PUSH merged to form the Rainbow PUSH Coalition with  
21 its international headquarters in Chicago; the mission of the

1 Rainbow PUSH Coalition was to protect, defend, and gain civil  
2 rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields  
3 and to promote peace and justice around the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition continues to  
5 protect and promote the civil rights of African Americans  
6 while also addressing social and economic issues affecting  
7 marginalized communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Under Reverend Jackson's leadership, the Rainbow  
9 PUSH Coalition has focused on a range of issues, including  
10 voting rights, economic justice, education, affordable  
11 housing, and health-care access; the Coalition advocates for  
12 policies that promote equality, fairness, and social justice  
13 related to civil rights and economic empowerment and engages  
14 in public policy advocacy, corporate accountability campaigns,  
15 and other issues that will bring about positive change; and

16 WHEREAS, The Rainbow Push Coalition continues to bring  
17 attention to the problems and issues facing marginalized  
18 communities through local and national media and through  
19 sharing and discussing information; and

20 WHEREAS, The Rainbow PUSH Coalition Convention is an  
21 annual event where participants gain an understanding of the  
22 Coalition's causes, develop resolutions, and design solutions;

1 each year in July, national and worldwide leaders as well as  
2 those from Chicago attend the convention for three days of  
3 workshops and panels focusing on wealth building, health  
4 inequities, business, leadership, and more; and

5 WHEREAS, This highly anticipated convention, organized  
6 under Reverend Jackson's leadership, is considered the largest  
7 of its kind in the nation; the convention provides the only  
8 major platform for activists, community leaders, policy  
9 makers, and individuals from various backgrounds to come  
10 together and address issues and solutions that affect and will  
11 enhance the lives of African Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, This year, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition will host  
13 its annual convention with the theme "The Perilous Journey  
14 from Freedom to Equality"; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we commend Reverend Jesse Lewis Jackson on founding the  
18 Rainbow PUSH Coalition and for all of the work the Coalition  
19 has accomplished for the betterment of marginalized  
20 communities and our State and nation as a whole; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Reverend Jackson as a symbol of our esteem and  
2 respect.