



HR0727

LRB103 40252 ECR 72222 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Rachel Costabile, Ashley
4 McLeod, Ruth Pligge, Bridget Brown, and Erika Kissel on the
5 occasion of the successful creation and operation of their
6 small business, Just A Dollop; and

7 WHEREAS, Just A Dollop is a microbusiness led by Rachel
8 Costabile, Ashley McLeod, and Ruth Pligge with assistance from
9 their friends Bridget Brown and Erika Kissel; together, they
10 strive to prepare and feature healthy, simple-to-follow
11 recipes with "just a dollop" of something special to make
12 meals delicious; all five women have developmental
13 disabilities; all five women also speak and advocate for
14 people with disabilities in Illinois to raise their voices for
15 choices about living a full life in the community and
16 selecting a home of their choice; and

17 WHEREAS, Rachel Costabile, Ashley McLeod, and Ruth Pligge
18 are friends and roommates who live together at the 209 House,
19 an independent setting located in Naperville, where their
20 day-to-day lives are driven by their needs and choices with
21 support from a team of social service professionals; and

22 WHEREAS, Rachel Costabile is known for her charismatic,

1 independent spirit; she has spent the past ten years learning
2 life skills, living with roommates, traveling to see friends
3 in California, working, and volunteering; she works at Lou
4 Malnati's Pizzeria and GIA MIA Restaurant in Naperville, and
5 she volunteers as a teacher's aide at Briar Glen Elementary
6 School; she loves spending time with her friends, crafting,
7 and searching the Internet for fun activities, crafts, and
8 recipes; she is currently working on improving her art and
9 advocacy skills; and

10 WHEREAS, Ashley McLeod is an incredible young woman with a
11 broad range of gifts and talents; she serves as an advocate for
12 herself and others with Down Syndrome, and she has bravely
13 navigated many challenges in her life with courage and
14 perseverance, becoming an inspirational role model for many
15 people in the process; she is a graduate of Harper College and
16 an actress; she dreams of teaching others how to cook
17 healthier meals; and

18 WHEREAS, Ruth Pligge is known for her sense of humor, her
19 smile, her independence, and for being the life of the party;
20 she is an avid fan of Chicago sports teams, especially the
21 Chicago White Sox; she enjoys laughing, telling jokes, texting
22 friends and family, working, attending a day program, and
23 pursuing her hobbies of solving jigsaw puzzles, collecting
24 baseball cards, and bowling; her signature dish is pigs in a

1 blanket; and

2 WHEREAS, Bridget Brown passionately serves as an advocate
3 for people with disabilities; one day a week, she travels to
4 the University of Illinois Dental School in Chicago, where she
5 acts as a children's dental health educator and assistant at
6 the pediatric dental clinic; she is currently enrolled at the
7 University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in its new Coop College
8 Disabilities Program; she also works with the Pace bus company
9 as a spokesperson for Hop on the Bus, a program to assist
10 people with disabilities to navigate the Pace bus system; she
11 is the vice president of the National Association for Down
12 Syndrome; she dreams of becoming a television or movie
13 actress, previously acting in the 2012 movie LOL; she loves
14 spending time with her friends and participating in the latest
15 Just a Dollop adventure; and

16 WHEREAS, Erika Kissel is a courageous, spunky, humorous,
17 and determined young woman; she has had many opportunities to
18 educate and inspire others as a presenter at National Louis
19 University, the Arc of Illinois, the National Association for
20 Down Syndrome, International Best Buddies, St. Raphael Church,
21 the American Culinary Federation, and the Chicago Chefs of
22 Cuisine Association; she is an honorary culinarian member of
23 the culinary profession and hospitality industry, and she has
24 been employed in the food service industry through her alma

1 mater, Neuqua Valley High School, for over 23 years; she has
2 volunteered for a variety of organizations, including at her
3 church, the DuPage Children's Museum in Naperville, and the
4 Cancer Center; in her time off, she assists in a preschool
5 class and enjoys researching various topics; she provides
6 expertise in food preparation and safety; and

7 WHEREAS, Rachel Costabile, Ashley McLeod, Ruth Pligge,
8 Bridget Brown, and Erika Kissel successfully operate Just A
9 Dollop through supporting and helping one another, and their
10 efforts have led to the creation of a cookbook that features
11 such recipes as pumpkin spice greek yogurt dip, no sodium taco
12 seasoning, crack chicken, low-carb tortilla chips, greek
13 yogurt dressing, sweet potato leek soup, and others; they have
14 also expanded into producing how-to cooking videos, which they
15 present on their business website and YouTube channel;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate Rachel Costabile, Ashley McLeod, Ruth Pligge,
20 Bridget Brown, and Erika Kissel on the successful creation and
21 operation of their small business, Just A Dollop, and we wish
22 them continued success on their entrepreneurial journey; and
23 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we encourage the entrepreneurship of people
2 with developmental disabilities.