



HR0764

LRB103 40551 LAW 73083 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Reverend  
4 Walter "Slim" Coleman of Chicago, who passed away on April 16,  
5 2024; and

6           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman was born on August 20, 1943; he was  
7 raised in Lubbock, Texas; he attended Harvard University,  
8 where he dropped out shortly before graduation to begin his  
9 life in activism, later finishing his degree; and

10           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman was an influential Chicago activist  
11 for more than six decades; he served as an advocate for civil  
12 rights and social justice causes and led countless  
13 demonstrations; and

14           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman became involved with the Student  
15 Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a predominantly Black,  
16 student-run civil rights group; after the organization  
17 dissolved, he moved from Cleveland to Chicago in 1966, where  
18 he began working with the Students for a Democratic Society,  
19 an organization whose headquarters were located near the  
20 Illinois Black Panther Party Headquarters on Madison Street,  
21 leading him to become acquainted with Chairman Fred Hampton;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, After parting ways with the Students for a  
2 Democratic Society, Rev. Coleman created the People's  
3 Information Center in Lincoln, which functioned as part of the  
4 Black Panther Party and aided thousands of poor whites and  
5 Latinos who lived on Chicago's North Side; and

6           WHEREAS, After Hampton's death in 1969, Rev. Coleman  
7 established the Intercommunal Survival Collective of the Black  
8 Panther Party in Uptown, which provided food, education, and  
9 legal assistance; his organization evolved into the Heart of  
10 Uptown Coalition; and

11           WHEREAS, Through his monumental voter registration efforts  
12 in Chicago's poor white communities, Rev. Coleman played a  
13 pivotal role in Harold Washington's historic and successful  
14 campaign to become Chicago's first Black mayor in 1983; and

15           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman created the Fair Share organization  
16 with his future wife, Emma Lozano, to fight gentrification in  
17 the West Town and Bucktown communities; and

18           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman later became a pastor and led the  
19 Adalberto United Methodist Church in Humboldt Park, serving  
20 that church and the Lincoln United Methodist Church in Pilsen;  
21 and

1           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman served as an immigration policy aide  
2 to former U.S. Representative Luis Gutiérrez; and

3           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman loved playing guitar and music,  
4 especially country, blues, and folk; and

5           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman leaves behind a legacy of community  
6 leadership and activism on behalf of people and communities  
7 fighting for fairness and access to resources and power in  
8 Chicago; and

9           WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman is survived by his wife; five  
10 children, Robert Rico, Anita Rico, Tanya Lozano, Joline  
11 Lozano, and Roberto C. Lopez; and six grandchildren;  
12 therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we mourn the passing of Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman and  
16 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all  
17 who knew and loved him; and be it further

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