



SR0810

LRB103 39778 LAW 70329 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Deborah Covington on the occasion of her retirement from the Jewish United Fund (JUF); and

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WHEREAS, For 35 years at JUF, Deborah Covington, who earned a master's degree in social work, has dedicated her career to working with refugee, immigrant, and other vulnerable populations throughout the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Deborah Covington joined JUF in May 1989 as a program planner for refugee services, where she oversaw JUF's contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services to administer the statewide multi-agency refugee program as well as JUF's Russian refugee resettlement program, which relied on both governmental and private resources; and

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WHEREAS, In her final JUF role as senior vice president, Deborah Covington stewarded JUF's Overall Planning and Allocations Committee (OPAC) and its commissions; under her leadership, JUF has annually allocated more than \$141 million to health and human services, education, and engagement organizations working with and for underserved communities in the Chicago metropolitan area and around the world; and

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1 WHEREAS, The impact of Deborah Covington's leadership is
2 evident throughout Chicago and beyond, as evidenced by her
3 work developing structures for local Ukrainian and Afghan
4 refugee relief funding, overseeing allocations from JUF's
5 Israel Emergency Fund following Hamas' October 7, 2023
6 invasion, leading JUF's local Mental Health and COVID
7 Emergency Relief planning and grant making, and supporting
8 partner organizations around issues of strategy development,
9 financial health, capacity building, and physical security in
10 order to ensure a thriving service infrastructure is in place
11 to meet evolving community needs; and

12 WHEREAS, Outside of but connected to her JUF work, Deborah
13 Covington has held positions on a variety of committees and
14 task forces, including the Refugee Services Executive Council
15 and Consortium, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the
16 Illinois Department of Human Services' Contracting Best
17 Practice Group, the Multilingual Mental Health Task Force,
18 committees concerned with grantmaking initiatives for
19 immigrants, refugees, and homelessness, and several United Way
20 of Chicago committees; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate
23 Deborah Covington on her retirement from the Jewish United
24 Fund (JUF), and we thank her for decades of contributions to so

1 many vulnerable populations; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Deborah Covington as a symbol of our esteem and
4 respect.