

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, V-Day was born in 1998 as an outgrowth of Eve
3 Ensler's Obie Award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues"; as
4 Eve performed the piece in small towns and large cities all
5 around the world, she saw and heard first hand the
6 destructive personal, social, political, and economic
7 consequences that violence against women has for many
8 nations; and

9 WHEREAS, Hundreds of women told her their stories of
10 rape, incest, domestic battery, and genital mutilation; it
11 was clear that something widespread and dramatic needed to be
12 done to stop the violence; and

13 WHEREAS, Worldwide, over 40% of the adults who daily
14 become infected with HIV are women; 10% to over 50% of women
15 have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner;
16 one-third to one-half of physically abused women also report
17 sexual coercion; many of these women reported that suggesting
18 condom use resulted in violence; and

19 WHEREAS, The mission of V-Day is simple; it demands that
20 the violence must end; it proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day
21 until the violence stops; when all women live in safety, no
22 longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day
23 will be known as Victory over Violence Day; and

24 WHEREAS, Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and
25 college students produce annual benefit performances of "The
26 Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti
27 violence groups within their own communities; in 2002, more
28 than 800 V-Day benefit events were presented by local
29 volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of
30 people about the reality of violence against women and girls;
31 and

1 WHEREAS, V-Day itself stages large scale benefits and
2 promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan
3 Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country
4 Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards
5 violence against women; and

6 WHEREAS, V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100
7 Best Charities" in 2001; in its first five years, the V-Day
8 movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million
9 raised in 2002 alone; and

10 WHEREAS, On February 18, 2004, Chicago will hold its
11 third consecutive V-Day event with the benefit production of
12 "The Vagina Monologues"; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we recognize and wholeheartedly support the efforts that
16 V-Day campaigns have made to stop violence against women by
17 designating February 14 as V-Day.