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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate John Gordon, Chairman of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors, on his quest to bring awareness to blind vendors in Illinois and to make the public aware of the plight of blind vendors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gordon was born in Chicago; he married Sandra in June of 1990; he is the father of 4 children, Kelly, Johnny, April, and Veronica; he has been the Chairman of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors for the last 7 years; and

WHEREAS, In his time as chairman, the Committee received the Employer of the Year award from the Department of Human Services for extending an arm of employment to people with disabilities; he is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America, and, in 1999, he was named the National Vendor of the Year by that organization; he currently operates a vending service at Stroger Hospital in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Current State law provides that State agencies shall give opportunity to blind vendors at State offices; this program enlarges economic opportunities for the blind; and

WHEREAS, In order to bring awareness to this situation and to make the public aware of the plight of blind vendors, Mr. Gordon embarked on a walk from Chicago to Springfield on April 12, 2004; he plans to arrive in Springfield on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, where he will be joined by friends, supporters, and blind business people from around the State; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Office of the Governor and all State agencies to give

1 preference, not just opportunity, to blind vendors as the law
2 provides; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we congratulate John Gordon on his quest to
4 make the public aware of the plight of blind vendors that led
5 to his trek from Chicago to Springfield; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to John Gordon as an expression of our respect and
8 esteem; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
10 Governor Rod R. Blagojevich.