



SR0368

LRB096 13391 KXB 28115 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Wanda White Gills of Chicago, who passed away on June 24, 2009; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, She was born on November 11, 1956 in Charlottesville, Virginia; she moved to Chicago in 1985 with her husband, Elder Dr. Douglas Gills; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, She served as an Assistant or Deputy Commissioner under Chicago Mayors Harold Washington, Eugene Sawyer, and Richard M. Daley; she was a community based coalition builder, serving with the Community Workshop on Economic Development (CWED) and the Women's Self Employment Project (WSEP); and

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, She was known as the "Mother" of Chicago's award-winning Empowerment Zone planning process, working tirelessly in mobilizing low-income communities to participate in the planning process while serving as the Executive Director of CWED; after leaving CWED, she became the Development Director of the Chicago Housing Authority Transition team, spearheading the Hope VI planning and implementation process involving public housing residents; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

WHEREAS, She was an active member of Progressive Community

1 Center Church, where she served in a variety of positions,
2 including Chief Operating Officer and as a member of the Praise
3 Dance team; and

4 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her brother, Clarence
5 White Ragland; and

6 WHEREAS, She is survived by her husband, Elder Dr. Douglas
7 Gills; her sons, Wilbur Scott and Raymond Douglas; her
8 daughter, Raniece White; her parents, Ray and Ethel Ragland;
9 her four grandchildren; her adopted sisters and brothers; and a
10 host of nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
13 her family and friends, the passing of Wanda White Gills; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Wanda White Gills as a symbol of our
17 sincere sympathy.