



HR0094

LRB097 07105 GRL 48085 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Premature birth is a serious and growing problem that affects families from every walk of life and in every corner of the country; and

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WHEREAS, 12.8%, or one of every eight, of all babies born in the United States are born prematurely; and

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WHEREAS, Premature births have increased by 36% since the early 1980s; and

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WHEREAS, In the United States, prematurity/low birthweight is the second leading cause of all infant deaths in the first year of life and the leading cause of infant death among black infants; and

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WHEREAS, Premature babies who survive may suffer life-long consequences, including cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss; and

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WHEREAS, Preterm birth and low birth weight are a significant financial burden in health care; and

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WHEREAS, The medical, educational, and lost of productivity costs associated with preterm birth in the United

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1 States was at least \$26 billion in 2005; and

2 WHEREAS, Low birth weight, especially in conjunction with
3 environmental stress, is associated with the development of
4 diabetes and other chronic diseases later in life; and

5 WHEREAS, It is a fact that pre-term infants are more likely
6 to have health problems that result in re-hospitalization; and

7 WHEREAS, The causes of premature births are not fully
8 understood; and

9 WHEREAS, The cause of approximately half of all preterm
10 births is completely unknown; and

11 WHEREAS, To reduce the rates of preterm labor and delivery,
12 more research and funding is needed on the underlying causes of
13 preterm delivery, the prevention of preterm birth so that
14 babies are born full-term, and treatments improving outcomes
15 for infants born prematurely; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we recognize activities and programs that promote awareness of
19 and solutions to the dangers of premature birth across the
20 United States; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we designate the 16th of every month in 2011
2 as Premature Birth Prevention and Awareness Day in the State of
3 Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we encourage Congress to reauthorize the
5 PREEMIE Act, which is currently scheduled to expire at the end
6 of fiscal year 2011, to continue and enhance federal support
7 for research into the causes and prevention of premature birth
8 and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That we dedicate this resolution to the memory of
11 Leilani Marie Decker and her courageous struggle; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the Governor, the Speaker and Minority Leader of
15 the Illinois House of Representatives, the President and
16 Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate, and the members of the
17 Illinois congressional delegation.