



HR0117

LRB097 07486 KTG 47596 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since the founding of Illinois' State hospitals,
3 residents of Illinois with mental illnesses and developmental
4 and other disabilities have been removed from Illinois
5 communities and committed to live in State institutions; and

6 WHEREAS, Some residents of these State institutions were
7 forced to labor without compensation; and

8 WHEREAS, Some residents of these State institutions were
9 subjected to medical experiments and procedures without their
10 consent, including the routine subjection of female inmates to
11 involuntary sterilizations; and

12 WHEREAS, Some residents of these State institutions were
13 subjected to punitive shock treatments, frontal lobotomies,
14 aversive treatments, and isolation; and

15 WHEREAS, Thousands of children grew up in these State
16 institutions learning none of the comforts, joys, and cultural
17 norms that are learned in family life; and

18 WHEREAS, Thousands of parents whose children required
19 intensive care were forced to make painful decisions about
20 whether to institutionalize their children or to provide all

1 the care and education they required themselves, incurring in
2 the process immeasurable financial, career, social, and
3 familial burdens; and

4 WHEREAS, Parents of persons with developmental
5 disabilities were sometimes advised to institutionalize their
6 children, and to break their familial bonds by making them
7 wards of the State irrespective of the family's and community's
8 ability to support and nurture these children; and

9 WHEREAS, These fellow Illinoisans were portrayed by some as
10 subhuman organisms, as deviant individuals to be feared by
11 society, and as eternal children unaccountable for their
12 behavior and incapable of speaking for themselves or shaping
13 their own lives, which greatly diminished their fellow
14 citizens' ability and willingness to accept them for their own
15 unique qualities; and

16 WHEREAS, Institutional care for persons with developmental
17 disabilities has been scientifically demonstrated to be
18 detrimental to people's basic development, including social
19 development, development of self-determination, and the
20 development of the basic skills of daily living; and

21 WHEREAS, Many residents of Illinois once viewed this
22 institutional treatment as acceptable and subjected tens of

1 thousands of citizens to it, but now recognize how wrong this
2 treatment was; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois' State institutions are closing and,
4 through this process, their history and the acknowledgment of
5 our collective responsibility for it may be forgotten; and

6 WHEREAS, People who were relegated to State institutions
7 and their families have never received a formal apology from
8 the State; and

9 WHEREAS, The states of Virginia, Oregon, South Carolina,
10 California, and North Carolina have apologized for similar
11 actions towards people with disabilities in their own states;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 the State of Illinois apologizes publicly to all persons with
16 mental illness and developmental and other disabilities who
17 have been wrongfully committed to State institutions,
18 acknowledging that it regrets this history of
19 institutionalization of persons with those disabilities, and
20 that it commits itself in their memory to move steadfastly to
21 help residents of Illinois with those disabilities who in the
22 future turn to the State for services to receive them in the

1 least restrictive manner; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to appropriate organizations of people with
4 disabilities and to the news media.