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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of the  
4 Child's Play Touring Theatre on the occasion of the  
5 organization's 33rd anniversary in 2011; and

6           WHEREAS, Based in Chicago, Child's Play Touring Theatre is  
7 the premiere theatre company in the United States dedicated  
8 exclusively to performing works written by children; Child's  
9 Play motivates elementary school students to read and write  
10 through developing and staging original plays based on  
11 children's poems, stories, and songs; and

12           WHEREAS, The goal of Child's Play is to help children  
13 understand the value and significance that writing and reading  
14 has on their lives; and

15           WHEREAS, Child's Play was founded by Victor and June  
16 Podagrosi in 1978 while Victor was teaching theatre at Parkland  
17 College in Champaign; when asked to stage a performance of  
18 children's writings for a Young Author's awards ceremony,  
19 Victor was delighted with the sophistication and storytelling  
20 abilities he discovered in children's writing; believing they  
21 had identified a unique form of educational theatre, Victor and  
22 June formed Child's Play Touring Theatre and began traveling to

1 rural schools in east central Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, Child's Play Touring Theatre believes in the  
3 importance of contributing to the Chicago community; its  
4 principal outreach program, the Chicago Young Writers Project,  
5 aims to motivate Chicago public school students to write, as  
6 well as provide teachers with drama-based methods for writing  
7 instruction; and

8 WHEREAS, With the passing of Victor Podagrosi, his wife  
9 took over the direction of Child's Play and established the  
10 Victor Award to honor individuals and organizations who have  
11 demonstrated outstanding commitment, generosity, and/or  
12 service to Child's Play; and

13 WHEREAS, Child's Play was honored with an Emmy Award for  
14 its contribution to the production of two child-focused Public  
15 Service Announcements, "Educate Us" and "If I Were President";  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Some of their original productions include: New  
18 Voices, Writing Our World, Do the Write Thing, The Great Green  
19 Adventures of: R-Man, and One Monster After Another; and

20 WHEREAS, Their website, launched in 2010, carries their  
21 motto: Kids Put It On The Page, We Put It On The Stage; and

1           WHEREAS, Their annual Spring Benefit Celebration will be  
2 held on June 16, 2011 and is entitled "Global Energy: The  
3 Musical"; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we congratulate the members of the Child's Play Touring Theatre  
7 on the occasion of the organization's 33rd anniversary and wish  
8 the group continued success in its future endeavors; and be it  
9 further

10           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy be presented to June  
11 Podagrosi as a symbol of our esteem and respect.