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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Children who have had a loved one die, especially
3 a friend or close family member, can carry that loss with them
4 forever, causing confusion and fearfulness as they struggle to
5 understand why their loved one was taken away; and

6 WHEREAS, Willow House is the only non-profit organization
7 in the entire State that provides extended services at no fee
8 to children and families; and

9 WHEREAS, Counseling provided by Willow House offers
10 emotional support for children struggling with grief, allowing
11 them to find guidance and understanding during an extremely
12 difficult time; and

13 WHEREAS, Willow House Board President Kitty Hoffman began
14 helping children after her son, Michael, along with 7 other
15 students, were killed while riding aboard a school bus that was
16 involved in a railroad crossing accident in Fox River Grove on
17 October 25, 1995; and

18 WHEREAS, Florida and Pennsylvania have already signed on in
19 support of grieving children by declaring Thursday, November
20 17, 2011, as "Children's Grief Awareness Day" in their
21 respective states; and

1 WHEREAS, On November 17, 2011, citizens and communities
2 throughout Illinois are encouraged to wear blue in an effort to
3 raise awareness and show their support for mournful children
4 and the grief centers that seek to serve those young people
5 confounded by the reality of death; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we recognize November 17, 2011, as "Children's Grief Awareness
9 Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That Willow House be recognized for its efforts
11 to support children, teens, families, and communities who are
12 coping with death and dying; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Kitty Hoffman as a symbol of our respect and
15 esteem.