



HR0691

LRB097 14797 GRL 61428 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of
4 Hadassah on the occasion of the organization's 100th
5 anniversary on February 24, 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1909, Henrietta Szold and her mother took a
7 trip to pre-state Israel, where they witnessed the starvation
8 and disease that afflicted the people of the region; upon
9 returning to the United States, she soon founded Hadassah, a
10 volunteer women's organization with the biblical mission of
11 Aruhat Bat Ami: the Healing of the Daughter of my People; and

12 WHEREAS, Hadassah's first mission was to send two nurses to
13 Palestine to provide pasteurized milk to infants and new
14 mothers; the organization also worked to eradicate trachoma, an
15 easily cured eye disease that was robbing thousands of their
16 sight; by 1918, Hadassah had sent an entire medical unit,
17 composed of 45 doctors, nurses, dentists, and sanitary workers,
18 to bring American-style medical care to serve all, regardless
19 of race, creed, or ethnicity; and

20 WHEREAS, By the mid-1930s, it had become clear that Jewish
21 children needed to be saved from a Europe that was rapidly
22 darkening with anti-Semitic and Nazi threats and actions;

1 joining with a German colleague, Henrietta Szold helped
2 organize the rescue of thousands such children, bringing them
3 to safety in Palestine; these children became one of the
4 foundations of the modern state of Israel, and many of her
5 "children" and their children survive to this day; and

6 WHEREAS, As early as 1942, the U.S. State Department named
7 Hadassah as one of the five largest contributors to overseas
8 relief; during World War II, Hadassah chapters around the
9 country sold a total of \$200 million in war bonds; for their
10 efforts, Hadassah was rewarded with 100 U.S. Air Force bombers,
11 each bearing the name of a Hadassah chapter; and

12 WHEREAS, Hadassah founded, owns, and supports 2
13 world-class medical centers in greater Jerusalem, and are
14 rapidly expanding their campuses and facilities; Hadassah is
15 currently concluding a \$210 million capital campaign for the
16 Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower at Hadassah Medical Center in Ein
17 Kerem, Jerusalem; over the years, Hadassah has expanded Israeli
18 projects to include Hadassah College Jerusalem, one of Israel's
19 top-ranked smaller colleges, 3 Hadassah Youth Aliyah villages,
20 where they house, feed, educate, and nurture young immigrants
21 and Israel's underprivileged youth, and Israel's largest
22 touring and residency program for American Jewish youth through
23 Young Judaea, the Hadassah Zionist youth movement; Hadassah
24 also supports major reforestation and water conservation

1 programs to protect Israel's precious natural resources; and

2 WHEREAS, The Hadassah-supported Youth Aliyah/Children at
3 Risk program sets Israel's disadvantaged children on the path
4 to a successful future; since 1934, over 300,000 young people
5 from 80 lands have graduated from Youth Aliyah; young
6 immigrants and "at-risk" native Israelis, many of whom are
7 victims of abuse, receive counseling, education, and support
8 services in Youth Aliyah day centers and youth villages; the
9 Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) is one of the world's
10 leading institutions in healthcare, comprised of the
11 Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the
12 Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus; and

13 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Hadassah has taken firm
14 advocacy positions on First Amendment issues, public health,
15 support of Israel, and a vast array of social concerns,
16 including immigration and voting rights; in recent years,
17 Hadassah has spoken out passionately in favor of federal and
18 state funding for stem cell research and has advocated strongly
19 for legislation that supports medical privacy and freedom from
20 genetic discrimination by insurance companies and employers;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, With 300,000 members, Hadassah is the largest
23 Jewish volunteer organization in America and one of the largest

1 women's volunteer organizations in the world; and

2 WHEREAS, The members of Hadassah serve as models of hard
3 work, integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
4 Illinois; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate the members of Hadassah on the occasion of the
8 organization's 100th anniversary and wish them continued
9 success and happiness in the future; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the date of February 24, 2012 be designated
11 as Hadassah Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Hadassah as a symbol of our esteem and respect.