



HR0776

LRB099 14389 GRL 38485 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, September 15 through October 15 marks National
3 Hispanic Heritage Month; and

4 WHEREAS, Our State's hospitals and surgery centers rely on
5 a continual safe supply of 100% donated blood; and

6 WHEREAS, Although Latinos make up 17% of the general
7 population nationwide, they make up less than 4% of blood
8 donors; and

9 WHEREAS, The Latino population has a high percentage of
10 type O blood, which is in high demand since it can be
11 transfused to patients with other blood types; Latino blood
12 also contains important antibodies, unique to the Latino
13 population, making their donations especially vital to other
14 Latinos in need of an exact antigen match for a transfusion;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, A single unit of blood can save up to 3 lives,
17 while a single trauma patient can use over 100 units of blood;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Blood only has a shelf life of 42 days; and

1 WHEREAS, Blood centers rely heavily not only on blood
2 donated on their premises, but on blood drives organized
3 throughout their communities by volunteers; and

4 WHEREAS, Blood can be donated every 56 days and can improve
5 the health of the donor by reducing excess iron and encouraging
6 the body to produce more blood; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes the importance of
8 blood donation through the Blood Donation Act, the Employee
9 Blood Donation Leave Act, and the Organ Donor Leave Act;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 encourage the Latino community in the State to share its unique
14 gift of life by donating blood; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we further encourage Latino businesses,
16 churches, and other organizations to consider hosting a blood
17 drive in their community and urge community colleges, colleges,
18 universities, and trade schools to host blood drives and
19 participate in the National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive
20 Scholarship Challenge; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers.