



HR0181

LRB101 11549 ALS 57458 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the staff and Board of
4 Directors of the Citizen Advocacy Center in Elmhurst on the
5 occasion of its 25th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center opened to the public
7 in 1994 and is an award-winning, non-profit, non-partisan free
8 community legal organization that has been recognized at the
9 local, state, and national levels; and

10 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center was founded by Theresa
11 Amato, who served as the Center's first executive director for
12 eight years and has been a member of the organization's
13 dedicated Board of Directors for 25 years; and

14 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center dedicates itself to
15 building democracy for the 21st century by strengthening the
16 citizenry's capacities, resources, and institutions for
17 self-governance; to advance its mission, the Center developed a
18 pioneering community lawyer model that protects the public's
19 assets, increases democratic protocols at every level of
20 government, and develops the voice of the citizenry through a
21 multi-faceted approach that includes community lawyering,
22 organizing, policy analysis, legal advocacy, civic education,

1 coalition building, and litigation; and

2 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center advances reforms
3 through efforts that start at the local level and become
4 State-wide initiatives, where undemocratic barriers rooted in
5 State law prevent or deter meaningful participation in the
6 democratic process; and

7 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center is open to the public
8 and offers a wide spectrum of services to further the
9 citizenry's skills, confidence, and understanding of civic
10 tools, to promote individual and community efforts to resolve
11 issues of public concern, and to stimulate the citizenry's
12 awareness of and action on issues of public significance;
13 services include a library of free resource materials, legal
14 and advocacy advice on matters of public concern from community
15 lawyers, frequent discussion forums on local to statewide
16 issues and the impact on community members, and civic and legal
17 trainings for the public; and

18 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center is committed to making
19 government more accountable, accessible, and transparent
20 through improving access to areas such as government-held
21 information and government institutions, the airwaves, the
22 ballot, and the courts, to monitoring local government entities
23 to insure accountability and to deter officials from acting

1 contrary to the general interest of the community, to providing
2 journalism training on government issues, and to litigating on
3 behalf of select causes to sustain access to justice; and

4 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center's pursuit of building
5 democracy includes many public initiatives, such as the Civic
6 Empowerment Zone with a library of resources, teacher and
7 student trainings, and a hands-on internship program that has
8 mentored hundreds of high school, college, and law students and
9 includes the Public Access Counselor Rulings database, which
10 makes more than 200 decisions immediately available to the
11 public, various government audits that assess compliance with
12 state laws or practices in areas such as election
13 administration, the Freedom of Information Act, and the Open
14 Meetings Act, and journalism education on policy issues and
15 much more; and

16 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center has contributed to
17 advancing statewide reforms, including civic education, the
18 Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, access to
19 the ballot, protecting the First Amendment Rights of the
20 citizenry, tax increment financing, ethics, and campaign
21 finance; and

22 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and staff of the Citizen
23 Advocacy Center serve as a model of hard work, integrity, and

1 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we congratulate the administration and staff of the Citizen
6 Advocacy Center on the occasion of its 25th anniversary and
7 wish them continued success in the future; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the Citizen Advocacy Center as a symbol of our
10 esteem and respect.