



HR0177

LRB103 31705 MST 60259 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, During Women's History Month, the members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Mireya Vera Mendoza for her impact on Latino equity and language access in the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza was born on July 27, 1956; she graduated from Kelly High School in 1974; she attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and obtained her bachelor's degree in bilingual education in 1978; she later earned her Master of Health Services Administration (MHA) from National Louis University in 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza worked diligently as a staunch advocate for language access and equity for limited English speakers across the State and for creating standards for interpretation and translation, making a significant impact through her work in the community, in the schools, and in the hospitals she served; and

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WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza left an indelible mark on language rights for our State, including being a contributing author on the standards of interpretation in educational and health settings, creating the Language Access Resource Center in DuPage, facilitating the City Colleges of Chicago Medical

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1 Interpreter Training Program, developing the medical
2 interpretation curriculum for Illinois, and directing medical
3 interpretation and translation programs at Mt. Sinai Hospital,
4 West Lake Hospital, Presence Health, and Holy Cross Hospital;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza and her colleague, Linda
7 Coronado, were pioneers in creating high standards for
8 interpretation and translation and championing language rights
9 to remove barriers in access to health, education, and social
10 services, and they authored the first language access statute
11 in the State of Illinois, which has served as a model across
12 the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza was active on several boards
14 throughout her career, including Mujeres Latinas en Acción,
15 the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education, the DuPage
16 Federation for Human Services Reform, The Little Village
17 chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Benito Juarez High
18 School Vocational Advisory Board, and the Healthcare Task
19 Force under Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya of the 7th
20 District, and, most recently, she was elected to serve on the
21 Glenbard Township High School District 87 School Board;
22 further, she served as co-chair of the Melrose Park Illinois
23 Welcoming Center and was founder of its Parent University; and

1 WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza brightened every room with
2 her love for her community and passion for language access and
3 stayed connected to her roots throughout her life; she became
4 an excellent cook of traditional Mexican cuisine and was
5 passionate about Latin music, which she expressed through
6 dancing; and

7 WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza passed away on December 14,
8 2022; she was the wife of Raymond Mendoza Jr. for 38 years; the
9 mother of Joaquin (Carina) Vera, Hector Mendoza, and Esteban
10 (fiancée, Alexandra) Mendoza; the grandmother of Arianna; the
11 daughter of Argelia and the late Anthony Vera; the sister of
12 Darlene (Jose) Mendez, Carmen (David Ruiz) Vera, and Paul
13 (Alexandra) Vera; the aunt of many nieces and nephews; and the
14 daughter-in-law of Catalina Mendoza; and

15 WHEREAS, Mireya Vera Mendoza's legacy continues today
16 during the 103rd General Assembly as we enact legislation that
17 incorporates standards for medically qualified interpretation
18 and that establishes a statewide language equity and access
19 policy; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we recognize Mireya Vera Mendoza's legacy as a champion for
23 interpretation standards and language access in our State, and

1 we mourn her passing and extend our sincere condolences to her
2 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Mireya Vera Mendoza as an
6 expression of our gratitude for her contributions to language
7 rights in the State of Illinois and our deepest sympathy.