



HR0060

LRB104 09590 ECR 19653 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bertha
4 Purnell, who passed away on January 18, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Bertha Purnell worked as a nurse; she was a
6 chapter coordinator for Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
7 (CSSJ) and served on the boards of Nature 120 and the Community
8 Board of the Axon Housing Community; she poured her passion
9 into serving not only those closest to her but also the
10 unhoused, the incarcerated, and other marginalized
11 individuals; and

12 WHEREAS, Bertha Purnell was a tireless advocate for
13 reducing gun violence; after the shooting and murder of her
14 son Maurice, she founded an organization, Mothers OnA
15 Mission28, to provide resources and support to families
16 affected by gun violence; the organization has expanded, and
17 its mission has developed; the group works to empower at-risk
18 communities and transform lives through holistic initiatives
19 and remains deeply committed to creating lasting positive
20 change in the communities it serves; and

21 WHEREAS, Bertha Purnell was a caretaker, a leader, and a
22 source of light, joy, and strength; her compassion knew no

1 boundaries, and her dedication to uplifting others left an
2 indelible mark on everyone she touched; and

3 WHEREAS, Bertha Purnell was a mother, a grandmother, a
4 sister, an aunt, and a friend to many; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Bertha Purnell and extend our sincere
8 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
9 her; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Bertha Purnell as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.