



HR0339

LRB104 13523 LAW 25990 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend Maria Castro, founder and CEO
4 of the nonprofit Love Purse, on her service to women in need;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Love Purse is a nonprofit that collects new
7 purses, fills them with toiletries, other necessities, and
8 supportive notes, and donates them primarily to shelters and
9 safe havens for women in need who are often escaping dire
10 situations such as domestic violence and human trafficking;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Love Purse was created by Pilsen resident Maria
13 Castro in 2021 in response to her learning about the spike in
14 domestic violence calls since the start of the COVID-19
15 pandemic due to people being in lock down with their abusers,
16 with many suffering in silence, and the subsequent influx of
17 women in need of help; and

18 WHEREAS, Love Purse has grown solely from word-of-mouth
19 and social media through the use of the hashtag #lovepurse,
20 leading to people reaching out to help, friends challenging
21 friends to honor a loved one by giving a love purse in their
22 name to a local safe haven, women holding parties to collect

1 and gather purses to donate, the participation of a number of
2 individuals and groups, including real estate agents, Girl
3 Scout troops, celebrities, and corporations, and an annual
4 gala; and

5 WHEREAS, Love Purse has donated love purses beyond the
6 State's borders, distributing them to those in need in several
7 U.S. states as well as Ukraine, Canada, and Mexico; as the
8 nonprofit continues to grow, it has expanded to include women
9 in hospitals who are going through chemotherapy, mothers who
10 have lost a loved one to violence, and migrants who are
11 striving for a fresh start in a new country; and

12 WHEREAS, Love Purse, since its inception, has donated more
13 than 18,000 love purses, affecting the lives of more than
14 18,000 women in need; and

15 WHEREAS, Maria Castro, through Love Purse, hopes to
16 empower women by putting love on their shoulders, one love
17 purse at a time, giving them hope and reminding them that they
18 matter; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we commend Maria Castro on her service to women in need through
22 her nonprofit, Love Purse, and we wish her continued success

1 in her philanthropic endeavors; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Maria Castro as an expression of our esteem and
4 respect.