



HR0357

LRB104 13651 LAW 26295 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Alan Mills on the
4 occasion of his retirement as executive director of Uptown
5 People's Law Center (UPLC); and

6 WHEREAS, Alan Mills has served UPLC for 45 years,
7 beginning as a volunteer while attending Northwestern
8 University School of Law in 1979; after graduating, he served
9 as a volunteer attorney from 1981 to 1990 and then as a
10 full-time staff attorney for two years, becoming legal
11 director in 1992; he was appointed as executive director in
12 2014; and

13 WHEREAS, During Alan Mills' tenure as executive director,
14 UPLC has grown from a staff of four to 20, possessing a budget
15 of over \$2 million this year, with its bank reserves having
16 increased from being able to cover operating costs for a few
17 weeks to having enough money to cover most of a year; and

18 WHEREAS, Under Alan Mills' leadership, UPLC has become a
19 nationally recognized organization in the realm of prisoners'
20 rights; the law center has fought tirelessly to end solitary
21 confinement since 1981 and has developed the largest docket of
22 civil rights cases filed on behalf of prisoners in the State of

1 Illinois, and it currently has six pending class action cases
2 protecting Illinois prisoners' civil rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Through Alan Mills' oversight, UPLC has also
4 become a leader in fighting for tenants' rights, including
5 defending individuals and supporting larger community
6 resistance to gentrification and displacement, and it has
7 played an important role in the larger grassroots organizing
8 effort to help keep Uptown diverse and livable for thousands
9 of people; and

10 WHEREAS, Alan Mills has served as an adjunct professor at
11 Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law since 2005,
12 teaching a seminar on prisons and prisoners' rights; for more
13 than a decade, pursuant to a contract with the courts, he has
14 also helped train and support attorneys appointed to represent
15 prisoners in civil rights cases by the U.S. District Courts
16 for the Northern and Southern Districts of Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, Alan Mills has expressed his intent to continue
18 supporting UPLC as a part-time staff attorney; therefore, be
19 it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate Alan Mills on his retirement as executive

1 director of Uptown People's Law Center (UPLC), and we wish him
2 the best in his future endeavors; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Alan Mills as an expression of our esteem and
5 respect.