



HR0527

LRB104 16029 MST 29290 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit is a native of Milwaukee,
3 Wisconsin, who cast his lot with the State of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit is a proud graduate of North
5 Central College; and

6 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit joined the House Republican staff
7 through the Illinois Legislative Staff Internship (ILSIP)
8 Program in 1993-1994, quickly gaining expertise in revenue
9 matters for the spring 1994 session; and

10 WHEREAS, In January 1995, when the Republicans gained the
11 Illinois House of Representatives majority, then-House
12 Republican Speaker Lee Daniels and his Chief of Staff, Mike
13 Stokke, chose Andrew Freiheit to be the lead House staffer to
14 assist the chairperson of the House Revenue Committee, Maureen
15 Murphy; and

16 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit worked tirelessly during the 1995
17 spring session to enact a key bill, P.A. 89-1, to extend
18 property tax caps to the population of Cook County, which
19 numbered 5,105,067 residents as of the 1990 census, and to
20 enact other essential tax reforms; and

1 WHEREAS, The Cook County property tax system required
2 further reforms, and HB 1465 of the 89th General Assembly,
3 originally drafted under Andrew Freiheit's coordination,
4 created the three-person Cook County Board of Review with the
5 right of appeal to the statewide Property Tax Appeal Board;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, HB 1465, as signed into law as P.A. 89-126,
8 remains law to this day, granting property tax appeal rights
9 to the owners of more than 1.8 million parcels of Cook County
10 real property; and

11 WHEREAS, Temporarily leaving Illinois House service after
12 the 1997 session, Andrew Freiheit began working with the Civic
13 Federation; and

14 WHEREAS, Former Representative Maureen Murphy was, during
15 this time, working towards election as a member of the
16 newly-created Cook County Board of Review; and

17 WHEREAS, In December 1988, Andrew Freiheit joined Rep.
18 Murphy as her chief of staff when she was elected as one of the
19 inaugural members of the Cook County Board of Review; and

20 WHEREAS, As a resident of the Chicago area, Andrew
21 Freiheit enrolled at Loyola University Chicago School of Law,

1 with the goal of becoming an Illinois attorney; and

2 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit rejoined the Illinois House
3 Republican Staff for the spring 2008 session, serving under
4 House Republican Leader Tom Cross and staffing the House
5 Gaming Committee; and

6 WHEREAS, As a licensed attorney, Andrew Freiheit began
7 serving House Republican Leader Cross and the House Republican
8 Caucus in August 2008 as the House Republican Ethics Officer
9 and general counsel, as well as staffing the House Executive
10 Committee and other committees; and

11 WHEREAS, In September 2015, Andrew Freiheit, a trusted
12 confidant of House Republican leadership, assumed the position
13 of chief of staff under House Republican Leader Jim Durkin
14 following the retirement of Chief of Staff Scott Reimers; and

15 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit served as chief of staff during
16 several of Illinois' most tumultuous periods of governance,
17 including the budget impasse of 2015-2017 and the COVID-19
18 pandemic, counseling the House Republican Caucus on the best
19 path forward for the State; and

20 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit oversaw and supervised a complete
21 operational shift during the pandemic, moving from traditional

1 in-person hearings and meetings to a fully remote operation,
2 enabling the House Republican Caucus to remain cohesive under
3 extraordinary circumstances; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Andrew Freiheit oversaw and
5 coordinated the social distance-staffing of an extraordinary
6 May 2020 session of the Illinois House located not in the
7 historic legislative chamber but in the BOS Center (Bank of
8 Springfield Center) at another downtown Springfield location,
9 with members and select staff seated far apart from each other
10 based on the best available science at the time; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite these challenges, Andrew Freiheit
12 retained the support of members of the House Republican
13 Caucus, who respected how he had overseen their staffing and
14 operations during the period of harsh orders that accompanied
15 the COVID-19 epidemic; and

16 WHEREAS, When new House Republican Leader Tony McCombie
17 assumed the leadership of the caucus in January 2023, she
18 retained Andrew Freiheit as her chief of staff, which was a
19 testament to his ability to serve the needs of the entire
20 caucus; and

21 WHEREAS, Andrew Freiheit continued his service as House
22 Republican Chief of Staff under Leader Tony McCombie until his

1 retirement on July 31, 2025; and

2 WHEREAS, When he retired, Andrew Freiheit was known
3 throughout the Illinois House as a man of character,
4 friendship, and genuine kindness and generosity to all; and

5 WHEREAS, As a former legislative intern who pursued public
6 service throughout his working life, ending up as chief of
7 staff of one of the four legislative caucuses of the Illinois
8 General Assembly, Andrew Freiheit was inducted into the Samuel
9 K. Gove Illinois Legislative Internship Program Hall of Fame
10 on October 27, 2025; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we congratulate Andrew Freiheit on his induction into the
14 Samuel K. Gove Illinois Legislative Internship Hall of Fame
15 and thank him for his years of exceptional public service; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Andrew Freiheit as a symbol of our respect and
19 esteem.