



HR0541

LRB104 16082 ECR 29369 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Western Governors University (WGU) is a  
3 nonprofit, accredited, online university founded by a  
4 bipartisan coalition of U.S. governors to expand access to  
5 affordable, high-quality higher education for working adults;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, WGU's School of Technology plays a vital role in  
8 strengthening Illinois' technology workforce by equipping  
9 residents with in-demand skills in various fields, including  
10 information technology, cybersecurity, software engineering,  
11 cloud computing, and data analytics; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois' economy increasingly depends on a  
13 skilled technology workforce to support its major industries,  
14 including manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, agriculture,  
15 and financial services; and

16 WHEREAS, According to Federal Reserve Economic Data, in  
17 the past year, Illinois saw its largest job gains in the  
18 information sector, adding 4,800 jobs for a 5% growth rate,  
19 which led the nation and far outpaced neighboring states that  
20 saw a 0.3% decline in information jobs; and

21 WHEREAS, According to Business Facilities' rankings and

1 the Illinois Economic Development Corporation, Illinois raised  
2 its ranking to number six in the nation for artificial  
3 intelligence (AI) job hubs, up from number nine in 2024, and  
4 ranks number seven nationally for cybersecurity talent,  
5 reflecting the State's growing strength in the innovation  
6 economy; and

7 WHEREAS, WGU currently serves more than 1,500 active  
8 Illinois students in the School of Technology, providing them  
9 with flexible, career-aligned education that allows them to  
10 balance work, family, and academic goals; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 2022, more than 6,000 Illinois residents  
12 have graduated from WGU, including over 800 graduates from the  
13 School of Technology, who have gone on to contribute to the  
14 State's growing technology, business, and public service  
15 sectors; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 70% of Illinois WGU graduates come  
17 from underserved populations, including first-generation  
18 college students, rural residents, and military veterans,  
19 reflecting the university's strong commitment to equity,  
20 access, and opportunity; and

21 WHEREAS, Through its innovative, competency-based  
22 education model, WGU's School of Technology allows Illinois

1 students to advance based on demonstrated mastery of skills  
2 and knowledge, making higher education more flexible,  
3 affordable, and responsive to individual learning needs; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois employers, from small businesses to  
5 major corporations and public agencies, benefit from WGU  
6 graduates who hold industry-recognized certifications and  
7 possess the technical and analytical skills needed to meet the  
8 demands of a rapidly changing economy; and

9 WHEREAS, WGU collaborates with state workforce partners,  
10 employers, and community organizations in Illinois to align  
11 education with real-time labor market needs, helping the State  
12 meet its goals for workforce development, talent retention,  
13 and economic innovation; and

14 WHEREAS, Graduates of WGU's School of Technology  
15 contribute to Illinois' competitiveness in many emerging  
16 fields, including AI, data science, and cybersecurity, helping  
17 to ensure the State remains a leader in innovation and  
18 technology; 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 Western Governors University's School of Technology  
22 for its outstanding contributions to Illinois' workforce

1 development, economic growth, and educational innovation; and  
2 be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Western Governors University as a symbol of our  
5 esteem and respect.