



HR0825

LRB104 21542 LAW 36948 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Barbara Deer, at the age of 54, and her son, Kaleb Deer, at the age of 23, both of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was born and raised in North Lawndale and lived a life rooted in service, compassion, and community uplift; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was a licensed speech-language pathologist who earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders from Jackson State University and a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer held professional licensure in the State of Illinois and certification through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, dedicating her career to evaluating, diagnosing, and treating individuals with speech and language disorders; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was also an entrepreneur, completing a business program at Joseph Business School and owning and operating a private speech pathology practice that expanded

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1 access to critical care and support services; and

2 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was a passionate advocate for
3 diversity, equity, and inclusion, and she gave generously of
4 her time as a community volunteer and leader, including her
5 membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, her
6 service on social justice initiatives, and her engagement with
7 organizations such as Friends of Dennis Deer, the North
8 Lawndale Community Coordinating Council, and Top Ladies of
9 Distinction; and

10 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was also a creative and thoughtful
11 voice, contributing to the publication Voices of Lawndale and
12 sharing her passions for writing, natural hair care, language,
13 and culture through her personal blog and community
14 engagement; and

15 WHEREAS, Kaleb Deer was regarded as a kind, grounded, and
16 compassionate young man who shared a deep bond with his family
17 and carried forward the values of service, care, and
18 connection that were instilled in him; and

19 WHEREAS, The Deer family has long been known for its
20 commitment to community service, advocacy, and public
21 engagement, and this loss comes not long after the passing of
22 family patriarch Dennis Deer, compounding the grief felt

1 across the community; and

2 WHEREAS, The tragic loss of Barbara and Kaleb Deer has
3 left an indelible mark on the City of Chicago, particularly on
4 the West Side and in North Lawndale, where their presence,
5 service, and love will be deeply missed; therefore, be it

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

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Barbara Deer and Kaleb Deer as an
13 expression of our deepest sympathy.