



HR0853

LRB104 21606 ECR 37065 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend the Illinois YouthBuild
4 Coalition (IYC) and its members for their dedication and hard
5 work; and

6 WHEREAS, The IYC was founded by former President Kerry
7 Knodle in 1996; the following year, the coalition advocated
8 for the passage of the Illinois YouthBuild Act by the Illinois
9 General Assembly, creating a mechanism for launching and
10 funding programs; and

11 WHEREAS, The IYC is dedicated to expanding employment and
12 career opportunities for socially and economically
13 disadvantaged young adults by advocating for an increase of
14 quality resources and community involvement; the coalition
15 partners with opportunity youth, or those aged 16 to 24, to
16 build a safe, secure, and supportive force for change in the
17 larger community; and

18 WHEREAS, The IYC is supported by YouthBuild USA and is
19 comprised of 18 YouthBuild programs in Illinois, which are
20 located in Aurora, Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago Heights,
21 Decatur, East St. Louis, Godfrey, North Chicago, Rockford,
22 Rock Island, Waukegan, and Chicago, and other youth-serving

1 organizations with similar purposes; the coalition's member
2 organizations all operate their programs according to the
3 YouthBuild Model; and

4 WHEREAS, The IYC's YouthBuild is a youth and community
5 development program that simultaneously addresses core issues
6 facing low-income communities, including housing, education,
7 employment, crime prevention, and youth leadership
8 development; and

9 WHEREAS, The IYC's YouthBuild programs serve low-income
10 young people aged 16 to 24 facing barriers to success,
11 including foster care, homelessness, and juvenile justice;
12 these young people are traditionally known as disenfranchised,
13 marginalized, at risk, and disconnected, and they are too
14 often defined by the struggles they face both socially and
15 economically; and

16 WHEREAS, Through the IYC's YouthBuild programs, low-income
17 young people aged 16 to 24 can work toward their GED or high
18 school diploma while learning the skills of the construction
19 industry through hands-on construction activities; and

20 WHEREAS, The IYC believes that the goals, dreams, and
21 aspirations of every young person are real, and these young
22 people should be seen for who they really are and should

1 receive support, as every young person deserves the
2 opportunity to develop their untapped potential; and

3 WHEREAS, The IYC will hold its annual Advocacy Day at the
4 State Capitol on May 14, 2026; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we commend the Illinois YouthBuild Coalition (IYC) for its
8 dedication to assisting the youth of Illinois, and we thank
9 IYC President Tameka Wilson, various staff members, and the
10 coalition's 18 state-wide directors for their continued
11 efforts and hard work; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the Illinois Youth Coalition as a symbol of our
14 respect and esteem.