



HR0912

LRB104 21979 ECR 37947 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Italian beef sandwich, comprised of thinly
3 sliced, seasoned roast beef piled high on a sturdy Italian
4 roll, dipped in rich beef au jus, and topped with sweet peppers
5 or spicy giardiniera, stands as one of the great culinary
6 creations of the American Midwest and a defining symbol of
7 Illinois' vibrant food culture; and

8 WHEREAS, The Italian beef sandwich traces its origins to
9 the working-class Italian immigrant communities of Chicago in
10 the early 20th century, where resourceful families stretched
11 affordable cuts of beef by slow-roasting them with herbs and
12 spices and slicing them paper-thin, a tradition of ingenuity
13 and community that reflects the enduring character of
14 Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, For nearly a century, family-owned Italian beef
16 stands and sandwich shops across the State of Illinois have
17 served generations of residents, visitors, and loyal devotees,
18 becoming beloved community institutions and anchors of local
19 commerce; and

20 WHEREAS, The Italian beef sandwich has become an
21 ambassador of Illinois culture far beyond the State's borders,
22 drawing food enthusiasts from across the nation and around the

1 world who come to experience an authentic taste of this State;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives, in
4 recognition of the sandwich's deep cultural roots and its
5 unparalleled status among Illinois foods, passed House Bill
6 4669 in 2026 as part of an effort to designate the Italian beef
7 sandwich as the Official Sandwich of the State of Illinois,
8 cementing its place in our State's heritage; and

9 WHEREAS, May 23 is celebrated annually as National Italian
10 Beef Day to honor this iconic sandwich, to recognize the
11 hardworking men and women who craft and serve it, and to
12 celebrate the rich culinary traditions that bring our
13 communities together; and

14 WHEREAS, FX, a division of Disney Entertainment, created
15 The Bear, an original series set in the kitchens and dining
16 rooms of a fictional Chicago Italian beef sandwich shop that
17 has brought international attention and renewed appreciation
18 to this beloved Illinois institution; and

19 WHEREAS, The Bear has earned widespread critical acclaim,
20 winning numerous Emmy Awards and other prestigious honors, and
21 has served as a powerful and authentic portrayal of Chicago's
22 food culture, its immigrant working-class roots, and the

1 spirit of resilience, creativity, and excellence that defines
2 the people of Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, The Bear has introduced the Italian beef sandwich
4 to new generations of fans across the globe, sparking a surge
5 of interest in Chicago's culinary heritage and inspiring
6 countless visitors to experience the City of Chicago and State
7 of Illinois firsthand; and

8 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that the Illinois House
9 of Representatives pause to honor Italian Beef Day on May 23,
10 to celebrate the sandwich that has nourished and united our
11 communities for generations, and to recognize the cultural
12 contributions that have carried this Illinois tradition to the
13 world stage; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we declare May 23, 2026 as Italian Beef Day in the State of
17 Illinois, and we commend this iconic sandwich as a proud
18 symbol of our State's culinary heritage, immigrant history,
19 and community spirit; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we extend our thanks to the families and
21 proprietors of Italian beef establishments across the State of
22 Illinois in recognition of their enduring contributions to our

1 shared heritage, and we affirm our commitment to honoring the
2 cultural and economic contributions of the restaurants, food
3 vendors, and hardworking Illinoisans who have kept this
4 tradition alive for generations; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we extend our sincere congratulations and
6 gratitude to the creators, cast, and crew of The Bear for their
7 extraordinary portrayal of Chicago's Italian beef culture, for
8 shining a national and international spotlight on the State of
9 Illinois, and for inspiring pride in our State's rich culinary
10 and cultural identity; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to FX on behalf of the producers of The Bear.