



HR0917

LRB104 21978 RMO 37946 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Rey B. Gonzalez on 50
4 years of work in civil rights and community development as
5 well as 45 years of service to El Valor; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez, president and chief executive
7 officer of El Valor, has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to
8 social justice and community empowerment; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez was born and raised on the South
10 Side of Chicago to parents who, along with his grandmother,
11 deeply emphasized the importance of education; and

12 WHEREAS, Prior to entering corporate America, Mr. Gonzalez
13 served as the regional Midwest director of the National
14 Council of La Raza and worked at the Chicago Urban League,
15 where he successfully helped place more than 2,500 women and
16 minorities in skilled, highly paid building and construction
17 trade jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez continued to champion opportunities
19 for the advancement of Latinos, minorities, and
20 underrepresented people through high-level corporate
21 leadership positions at the McDonald's Corporation and

1 Commonwealth Edison (ComEd); and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez has dedicated 45 years of service to
3 El Valor, a nonprofit organization founded in 1973 by the late
4 Guadalupe A. Reyes to support bilingual families and
5 individuals with disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez has held leadership roles at El
7 Valor for decades, having served as chairman of the board of
8 directors for more than 30 years before transitioning into his
9 current role as president and chief executive officer in 2013;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Under the visionary stewardship of Mr. Gonzalez,
12 El Valor has flourished from a very small organization housed
13 in a building in desperate need of repair into one of the 25
14 largest Hispanic-serving nonprofit organizations in the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, Through Mr. Gonzalez's leadership, El Valor has
17 achieved historic milestones for the State of Illinois,
18 including establishing the State's first bilingual, bicultural
19 rehabilitation center, starting the first computer programming
20 training center for people with disabilities, and building the
21 state's first intermediate care facility; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez spearheaded innovative initiatives
2 such as the Tocar El Futuro/Touch the Future early childhood
3 education model and the Parents As First Teachers awareness
4 campaign; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez initiated the Leadership through
6 Education university partnership to bridge the credential gap
7 for Latinos, resulting in hundreds of working people earning
8 degrees directly within the community at El Valor centers; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the executive guidance of Mr. Gonzalez, El
10 Valor has constructed children and family centers in Pilsen,
11 South Chicago, and Little Village and expanded its adult
12 residential program to six separate residences for individuals
13 with intellectual disabilities, now serving over 4,000
14 children, adults, and families annually; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez has been a tireless advocate for
16 technological equity, ensuring the installation of smart
17 classrooms and iPads to guarantee digital access for
18 lower-income, non-English speaking community members; and

19 WHEREAS, Beyond El Valor, Mr. Gonzalez has extended his
20 leadership as a cofounder and board member of the United
21 States Hispanic Leadership Institute, and he serves on the
22 boards of Mt. Sinai Hospital and the American STEM Alliance;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez's extensive advocacy has earned him
3 numerous accolades, including being named among the 100 Most
4 Influential Hispanics in America, receiving the U.S. Hispanic
5 Hero Award, having two annual scholarships established in his
6 name, and having a resource center for children and families
7 named in his honor on the southeast side of Chicago; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout his historic career, Mr. Gonzalez has
9 been supported by his wife, Hilda, and their four children,
10 Rey, Daniel, Adam, and Rachel; 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 Rey B. Gonzalez on his 50 years of
14 extraordinary work advancing civil rights and community
15 development, and we express our deep gratitude for his 45
16 years of profound leadership at El Valor; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Mr. Gonzalez as a token of our esteem and respect
19 for his enduring legacy of service to the people of Illinois.