



HR0936

LRB104 22070 LAW 38204 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, United States Senator Richard J. Durbin has
3 served the State of Illinois and its people with the heart of a
4 true public servant across both chambers of the federal
5 legislature over the course of 22 consecutive congressional
6 assemblies, and he is now approaching a well-deserved
7 retirement; and

8 WHEREAS, During his senior year at Georgetown University,
9 Senator Durbin began his career in politics as an intern in the
10 office of United States Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois
11 before pursuing a Juris Doctor at Georgetown University and
12 being admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1969; and

13 WHEREAS, As a member of the legal profession, Senator
14 Durbin began practicing in Springfield, where he served as
15 legal counsel to then Illinois Lieutenant Governor and later
16 United States Senator Paul Simon from 1969 to 1972, followed
17 by serving as legal counsel to the Illinois State Senate
18 Judiciary Committee from 1972 to 1982; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin showcased his dedication to
20 Illinois' development in education while serving as an
21 associate professor at Southern Illinois University School of
22 Medicine from 1978 to 1983; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin attended the Democratic National
2 Convention as a delegate in 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996, and he
3 became chairman of the Illinois state delegation in 1996; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin won his election as a Democrat to
5 the United States House of Representatives in November of
6 1982, and he began his public service representing Illinois'
7 20th congressional district and the Springfield area on
8 January 3, 1983, which continued for six consecutive terms
9 before ending on January 2, 1997; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin was elected as a Democrat to the
11 United States Senate by a margin of 15 points on November 5,
12 1996, and he proceeded to be reelected by at least 10 points in
13 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2020; he began serving as Senate
14 Democratic Whip in 2005, and he has served on the Senate
15 Committee on the Judiciary, the Senate Committee on
16 Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture,
17 Nutrition & Forestry; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin's initiatives in the legislature
19 included The Dream Act, which gave way to increased
20 diversification of the United States and an increased chance
21 for undocumented immigrants to become American citizens in
22 conjunction with President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for

1 Childhood Arrivals program; and

2 WHEREAS, In his tenure as a leader in the Senate Committee
3 on the Judiciary, Senator Durbin led the initiative to confirm
4 Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black
5 woman to ever serve on the nation's highest court in April of
6 2022; and

7 WHEREAS, During his time in the legislature, Senator
8 Durbin has prioritized national healthcare, attending to it
9 with action as the author of legislation banning smoking on
10 commercial airline flights, active participation in the
11 development of the Affordable Care Act, and the securement of
12 increased federal funding to combat childhood asthma,
13 increased immunizations, expanded medical research, and
14 federal funding to combating AIDS internationally; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin has maintained a focus on the
16 State of Illinois as his top priority and pride throughout his
17 congressional career, as evidenced by his advocacy for
18 Illinois' transportation infrastructure, including the
19 expansion of Chicago O'Hare International Airport and the
20 preservation and expansion of Amtrak, as well as the State's
21 economic development, health care systems, and veteran care;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin has given decades of himself, his
2 time, and his talents, and he is deserving of immense
3 gratitude and honor for his prioritization of the people of
4 Illinois and his commitment to the betterment of the United
5 States of America; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Durbin will conclude his incumbency in
7 the United States Senate on January 3, 2027, thus beginning
8 his well-earned retirement; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate United States Senator Richard J. Durbin on his
12 retirement following an immensely successful political career,
13 and we sincerely thank him for his service and dedication to
14 the State of Illinois and to the United States of America; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Senator Durbin as an expression of our esteem and
18 respect.