



HR0943

LRB104 22143 MST 38353 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The member of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend the Illinois Committee of
4 Blind Vendors for its decades of service, advocacy,
5 entrepreneurship, and commitment to expanding opportunities
6 for blind and visually impaired individuals throughout the
7 State; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors (ICBV),
9 established in 1974 pursuant to federal mandate, serves as the
10 elected representative body for Illinois' blind vendors
11 participating in the Business Enterprise Program for the
12 Blind; and

13 WHEREAS, The mission of the Illinois Committee of Blind
14 Vendors is to provide the highest level of self-employment
15 opportunities to blind men and women while employing people of
16 all disabilities; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors advocates
18 for opportunities that promote economic independence,
19 entrepreneurship, and self-sufficiency for blind and visually
20 impaired individuals throughout Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, The Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors and

1 participating blind vendors contribute significantly to the
2 Illinois economy, generating approximately \$16.9 million in
3 sales annually, producing approximately \$600,000 in sales tax
4 revenue, purchasing approximately \$8 million in goods,
5 distributing approximately \$2.2 million in payroll, and
6 employing dozens of individuals with disabilities throughout
7 the State; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors has
9 demonstrated a longstanding commitment to inclusive hiring and
10 employment opportunities for persons with disabilities,
11 earning recognition from the Illinois Department of Human
12 Services as Employer of the Year in 2001; and

13 WHEREAS, Blind vendors participating in the Business
14 Enterprise Program for the Blind proudly serve customers at
15 State, federal, county, municipal, and private facilities
16 across Illinois, including correctional facilities, highway
17 rest areas, hospitals, government buildings, and military; and

18 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Blind
19 Vendors Act, codified as 20 ILCS 2421, to expand economic
20 opportunities for blind individuals and provide priority for
21 licensed blind vendors to operate vending facilities on State
22 property; and

1 WHEREAS, The Randolph-Sheppard Act has served for decades
2 as a national model for empowering blind entrepreneurs through
3 business ownership and employment opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2012, President Barack Obama recognized the
5 Randolph-Sheppard Program as a leading example of economic
6 opportunity and independence for blind Americans and directed
7 federal agencies to continue supporting the program;
8 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 commend the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors for its
12 decades of service, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and commitment
13 to expanding opportunities for blind and visually impaired
14 individuals throughout the State of Illinois; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That we thank the Illinois Committee of Blind
17 Vendors and all participating blind vendors for their
18 contributions to Illinois communities, workforce development,
19 and economic opportunity; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors as a
22 symbol of our esteem and respect.