



SR0334

LRB104 13745 LAW 26482 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Racial Equity Rapid Response Team (RERRT) was  
3 formed at the request of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office  
4 under the leadership of Mayor Lori Lightfoot in March 2020;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The RERRT was co-convened by West Side United, an  
7 organization consisting of a collaboration of hospital  
8 partners, including Ascension Illinois, Cook County Health,  
9 Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, the Rush  
10 University Medical Center, the Sinai Health System, and the  
11 University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System; and

12 WHEREAS, The RERRT was established in order to mitigate a  
13 data-driven response to the high rates of COVID-19 mortality  
14 and to save lives and lessen further harm to Black and Latinx  
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The RERRT formed coalitions between government  
17 agencies, health care providers, and community organizations  
18 to identify needs and disparities by gathering community  
19 insight, to advocate for resources, and to champion reliable  
20 data and information in order to better promote healthy  
21 behavior; and

1       WHEREAS, The RERRT partnered with 21 health care providers  
2       to proactively contact patients in communities that were most  
3       impacted by COVID-19, connecting with approximately 75,000  
4       patients; of those who provided race/ethnicity information,  
5       48% self-identified as Black and 40% self-identified as  
6       Latinx; and

7       WHEREAS, The RERRT consisted of several key local  
8       partners, including the City of Chicago Mayor's Office, the  
9       Chicago Department of Public Health, West Side United, the  
10      Civic Consulting Alliance, the Rush University Medical Center,  
11      the Sinai Urban Health Institute, the University of Chicago,  
12      Advocate Health, the University of Illinois Chicago, Austin  
13      Coming Together, the Greater Auburn Gresham Development  
14      Corporation, South Shore Works, Enlace, Latinos Progresando,  
15      the Northwest Side Housing Center, ChiByDesign, the Southwest  
16      Organizing Project, the Chicago COVID Response Fund, and the  
17      Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation; and

18      WHEREAS, The RERRT, in partnership with the Civic  
19      Consulting Alliance, facilitated collaboration between health  
20      care providers, which culminated in an unprecedented joint  
21      statement being released in June 2020, in which 40  
22      institutions spoke in a unified voice to declare racism a  
23      public health crisis and pledge collective action to improve  
24      health equity; and

1       WHEREAS, The RERRT worked to ensure testing sites were in  
2       historically underserved communities, resulting in eight  
3       testing sites in RERRT target locations and mobile testing  
4       sites, which made testing more accessible to these  
5       communities; and

6       WHEREAS, The RERRT, in partnership with local and national  
7       philanthropic organizations, secured financial support for  
8       those most impacted by COVID-19, including \$3.1 million in  
9       grants secured by partners, \$155,000 in rent assistance, and  
10      cash assistance in the amount of \$120,000 for 120 individuals  
11      ineligible for federal stimulus dollars; and

12      WHEREAS, Within the first two months of its launch, the  
13      RERRT distributed critical resources to communities, including  
14      130,000 masks and 13,000-plus meals, reaching 8,000 households  
15      and more than 2,000 seniors; the team also enabled public  
16      access to COVID-19 data by way of a Slalom dashboard that  
17      provided testing, case, and death rates by race/ethnicity and  
18      at the zip code-level, thereby establishing Chicago as a  
19      national leader in data transparency; and

20      WHEREAS, The RERRT further commissioned the Driving  
21      Equitable Resource Distribution report, which was compiled by  
22      ChiByDesign, proposing five strategies and 14 guiding

1 principles to ensure cross collaboration between businesses,  
2 governments, and philanthropic organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, The work of the RERRT evolved to focus on vaccine  
4 equity through the creation of Protect Chicago Plus, a plan  
5 based at the Chicago Department of Public Health and designed  
6 to provide consistent access to vaccines for Chicagoans,  
7 especially those in low vaccinated areas, to make vaccines  
8 available where people live, work, and play, and to focus  
9 energy and resources on the lowest vaccinated communities; and

10 WHEREAS, The RERRT inspired the creation of six Healthy  
11 Chicago Zones (HCZ), a network of hyper-local partnerships  
12 established to achieve the Healthy Chicago goal of closing  
13 Chicago's racial life expectancy gap, ensuring that community  
14 members have the power and resources to identify local assets  
15 and develop solutions that meet their most pressing health  
16 needs; and

17 WHEREAS, The RERRT ultimately became a model worth  
18 replicating in other cities, including New York City, which  
19 was struggling to address inequitable health outcomes,  
20 including COVID-19 and beyond, and the systemic issues that  
21 underpin them; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare June 5, 2025  
2 as Racial Equity Rapid Response Team Day in the State of  
3 Illinois in recognition of the efforts of the Racial Equity  
4 Rapid Response Team (RERRT).