



SR0689

LRB104 21230 LAW 35831 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta, born in Dawson, New Mexico on April 10, 1930, has dedicated her life to advancing justice, dignity, and equal rights for working people across the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Inspired by the values of service and community instilled by her family, Dolores Huerta began her advocacy in California's Central Valley, where as a young teacher, she witnessed firsthand the poverty, hunger, and exploitation endured by the children of farmworkers; and

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WHEREAS, Determined to address the systemic injustices facing working families, Dolores Huerta became a leader in the Community Service Organization in Stockton, co-founding its chapter in 1955 and spearheading efforts to expand voting access, secure neighborhood improvements, and build political power for Latino communities; and

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WHEREAS, Through this work, Dolores Huerta helped form the Agricultural Workers Association and later co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which became the United Farm Workers, a historic multiracial coalition of Filipino, Mexican, and other immigrant laborers fighting for basic rights and humane working conditions; and

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1           WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta played a central role in the 1965  
2 Delano Grape Strike, standing alongside a number of Filipino  
3 labor leaders, including Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete  
4 Velasco, and Andy Imutan, and helping unite thousands of  
5 farmworkers in a courageous struggle for justice; and

6           WHEREAS, As the chief negotiator for the farmworkers,  
7 Dolores Huerta secured the first union contracts in American  
8 agricultural history, improving wages, working conditions, and  
9 protections for tens of thousands of workers; and

10           WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was instrumental in leading the  
11 nationwide grape boycotts of the late 1960s and early 1970s,  
12 mobilizing millions of consumers across the country and  
13 helping win passage of the California Agricultural Labor  
14 Relations Act of 1975, the first law in the nation to guarantee  
15 farmworkers the right to organize and bargain collectively;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Dolores Huerta has  
18 championed safer working conditions, including the elimination  
19 of harmful pesticides, and has been a powerful voice for  
20 women's rights, gender equity, and the leadership of women  
21 within social justice movements; and

1           WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta coined the iconic phrase "Si Se  
2           Puede", a rallying cry that has inspired generations of  
3           organizers, workers, and civil rights advocates in the ongoing  
4           struggle for justice; and

5           WHEREAS, Despite facing violence and intimidation,  
6           including a near-fatal beating by police during a peaceful  
7           protest in 1988, Dolores Huerta has remained steadfast in her  
8           commitment to nonviolence and principled activism; and

9           WHEREAS, In recent months, Dolores Huerta has shown  
10          profound resilience and courage in sharing her own experiences  
11          of harm, doing so in order to uplift the stories of countless  
12          women whose voices were overlooked or silenced; and

13          WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's willingness to speak openly,  
14          even after decades of service and sacrifice, reflects the same  
15          integrity that has defined her leadership and continues to  
16          strengthen the broader movement for justice; and

17          WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has received numerous national  
18          honors, including induction as the first Latina into the  
19          National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, the Eleanor Roosevelt  
20          Human Rights Award in 1998, and the Presidential Medal of  
21          Freedom in 2012, the highest civilian honor in the United  
22          States; and

1           WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has continued her lifelong work  
2 through the Dolores Huerta Foundation, founded in 2003, which  
3 trains new generations of community organizers, advances civic  
4 engagement, and advocates for the rights of working families,  
5 women, immigrants, and youth; and

6           WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's legacy is one of courage,  
7 integrity, and unwavering dedication to the belief that every  
8 person deserves dignity, respect, and a voice in shaping their  
9 future; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 10,  
12 2026 as Dolores Huerta Day in the State of Illinois in  
13 recognition of Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta's lifelong  
14 commitment to justice and her enduring impact on generations  
15 of activists and working families; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That we commend Dolores Huerta for her  
17 extraordinary contributions to civil rights, labor rights,  
18 gender equity, and social justice; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That we recognize her resilience in sharing her  
20 story and her commitment to uplifting the experiences of women  
21 whose narratives have too often been overlooked; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 presented to Dolores Huerta and the Dolores Huerta Foundation  
4 a symbol of our respect and gratitude.