



SR0764

LRB104 21731 LAW 37381 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate former Illinois State Senator and current U.S.
4 Representative Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia on the occasion of his
5 retirement from public service; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia immigrated to the United States from
7 Durango, Mexico, arriving in Chicago at the age of 9 in 1965;
8 early in his career, he served as a community organizer for
9 labor rights and inclusive city services in Chicago; he was
10 appointed as deputy commissioner of the Chicago Department of
11 Water in 1984; that same year, he was elected as ward
12 committeeman of the Cook County Democratic Party's 22nd Ward;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia was elected as alderperson of the
15 22nd Ward on the Chicago City Council in 1986, becoming the
16 first Mexican American alderperson of Little Village; in this
17 position, he helped strengthen progressive city governance
18 during Chicago's Council Wars by giving Mayor Harold
19 Washington a majority in the council, championed immigrant
20 access to city services, advocated for protection from
21 excessive or unfair fees, established himself as a coalition
22 builder across multiracial and working-class communities,
23 commissioned the construction of the iconic Little Village

1 Arch landmark, and served as chair of the Aviation Committee,
2 through which he helped implement the Automated Guideway
3 Transit at O'Hare International Airport; and

4 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia continued cementing his legacy as a
5 trailblazer when he became the first Mexican American to serve
6 as a member of the Illinois Senate, a position he held from
7 1993 to 1999; during his time in office, he was known for
8 producing and supporting targeted, high-impact legislation,
9 including the Language Assistance Services Act of 1993, which
10 required hospitals and long-term care facilities to provide
11 language assistance for limited English-speaking patients and
12 communication support for deaf/hard-of-hearing patients,
13 making language access a legal, required obligation, improving
14 patient safety, informed consent, and care outcomes, and
15 establishing a precedent for language access as a core public
16 service; he also helped pass legislation to protect the
17 welfare and safety of migrant workers, and he advocated for
18 immigrant and Latino representation, education equity for
19 Chicago schools, transit and infrastructure for working-class
20 communities, and Latino empowerment in Springfield; further,
21 he was elected chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus
22 before the formation of the Illinois Legislative Latino
23 Caucus; and

24 WHEREAS, After his time in the Illinois Senate, Rep.

1 Garcia served as the founding executive director of the Little
2 Village Community Development Corporation, now known as Enlace
3 Chicago, growing it from a one-person start-up to a major
4 nonprofit with a multimillion-dollar budget, 27 full-time
5 staff members, and 120 part-time staff members; through the
6 organization, he advocated for community schools, provided
7 after-school programs and anti-violence work, advocated for
8 criminal justice reform and educational opportunity expansion,
9 and helped lead a 19-day hunger strike to build a
10 long-promised new high school; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia was elected to serve the 7th District
12 on the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2010, during
13 which he served as floor leader of the board, ended county
14 cooperation with the United States Immigration and Customs
15 Enforcement (ICE), which served as a national model, passed
16 minimum wage increases and paid sick leave ordinances,
17 advocated for anti-housing discrimination policies,
18 established the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation,
19 and promoted public services equity at the county level; and

20 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia has represented the 4th Congressional
21 District of Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives
22 since 2019; upon his election the year prior, he became the
23 first Mexican American from the Midwest to serve in the United
24 States Congress; during his tenure, he has been elected and

1 served as Deputy Whip and Whip of the Congressional
2 Progressive Caucus (CPC), was appointed Vice Chair of the
3 House Committee on Natural Resources, focused on immigration
4 reform, labor rights, healthcare access, affordable housing,
5 and consumer protection, advocated for and secured gains in
6 equitable infrastructure investment and public transportation,
7 continued an emphasis on civil rights, economic opportunity,
8 and community-based policy, and delivered over \$60 million in
9 direct community project funding as well as additional
10 billions for statewide infrastructure initiatives,
11 environmental programs, and landmark developments; and

12 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia has led a career in public service
13 defined by a consistent policy agenda, identifying practical
14 points of vulnerability and then striving to fix them through
15 policy; across the various positions he has held, he has
16 continued to serve as a progressive voice, maintaining a core
17 focus on immigrant access, neighborhood equity, public
18 services, and working-class representation; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Garcia will retire from public service in
20 January 2027; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate former
23 Illinois State Senator and current U.S. Representative Jesus

1 G. "Chuy" Garcia on his retirement from public service, and we
2 thank him for his decades-long dedication and commitment to
3 his community and the State of Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Rep. Garcia as an expression of our esteem and
6 respect.