



HR0435

LRB101 12699 ALS 61400 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Austin community is the second-largest community by population and the second-largest community geographically in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, The Austin community is 83 percent African American, with the other 17 percent spread between the Hispanic, White, and other ethnic groups; and

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WHEREAS, The Austin community has produced a number of high-profile individuals, including public officials, actors, professional athletes, and successful business leaders but is mostly recognized as a community plagued with poverty and the Nation's highest death rates due to chronic diseases, senseless violence, and drugs; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Health Atlas, the Austin community has the highest death rates associated with chronic illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, and diabetes; the average life expectancy of residents on the West Side of Chicago is only 68.2 years of life; individuals just seven miles East on I-290 live to be approximately 88 years old; the community has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the city at 10.5 percent compared to Chicago's overall rate of 7.9 percent; and

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1           WHEREAS, Nearly half of all homicides reported in 2017 in  
2 Chicago occurred in the Austin community; last year, 530  
3 murders were reported in Chicago; approximately 48.7 percent of  
4 those were from the Austin community; and

5           WHEREAS, The Austin community is also at the center of the  
6 opioid epidemic; the 2017 Chicago Annual Opioid Surveillance  
7 Report by the Chicago Department of Public Health lists the  
8 Austin neighborhood as the most impacted community in the  
9 Chicago area for opioid-related overdose deaths and the most  
10 impacted area for EMS responses; and

11           WHEREAS, Chronic diseases, homicide, and the opioid crisis  
12 are serious public health issues that require immediate  
13 attention; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we commend every endeavor to address the critical issues  
17 plaguing the Austin community, especially the Loretto Hospital  
18 for their public health approach to violence, which sees  
19 violence as preventable and not just inevitable.