



HR0936

LRB101 23045 LAW 74170 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency that has resulted in 300,000 cases and nearly 10,000 deaths in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, In the early stages of the pandemic, the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) was considered the largest cluster of COVID-19 infections in the country; and

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WHEREAS, At one point, 1 in 6 COVID-19 cases in Illinois could be traced back to the Cook County Jail; and

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WHEREAS, While some Cook County workers have jobs that can be worked from home, CCDOC workers represented by Teamsters Local 700 have responsibilities that require them to work as frontline employees outside their homes and have jobs that require them to be in public and to interact with COVID-19 positive individuals; and

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WHEREAS, The members of Teamsters Local 700 at CCDOC risk their lives and the health and safety of their families to provide Cook County residents with safe, clean, efficient, and effective services; and

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WHEREAS, CCDOC officers on the front line of the pandemic

1 are unable to practice social distancing because of the
2 confined conditions at the jail; and

3 WHEREAS, Corrections officers' positions were identified
4 months ago by their essential nature, and CCDOC officers have
5 continued to provide critical services during the COVID-19
6 pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, CCDOC officers represented by Teamsters Local 700
8 put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis, many working
9 16-hour days without hazard pay; and

10 WHEREAS, CCDOC officers are 10 times more likely to
11 contract COVID-19 than the average American; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 500 CCDOC officers have contracted
13 COVID-19; and

14 WHEREAS, Six CCDOC officers represented by Teamsters Local
15 700 and one Court Services Deputy lost their lives due to
16 COVID-19; and

17 WHEREAS, Sheila Rivera, a corrections officer since 2012,
18 lost her life to COVID-19; she leaves behind a husband and a
19 16-year-old son; and

1 WHEREAS, Antoine Stewart, a corrections officer since 2010
2 and a resident of Crestwood, lost his life to COVID-19; and

3 WHEREAS, Antoine Jones, a corrections officer since 2002
4 and a South Side resident and grandfather of seven, lost his
5 life to COVID-19; and

6 WHEREAS, Jose Pedro Marquez, a corrections officer since
7 2004 and a resident of Berwyn, lost his life to COVID-19; he
8 leaves behind five children and three grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, Richard O'Brien, a Cook County Sheriff's Deputy
10 for 25 years, lost his life to COVID-19; he leaves behind a
11 wife and three children; and

12 WHEREAS, Jason Bobzin, a corrections officer since 2005 and
13 a resident of Countryside, passed away after completing his
14 shift at the jail; he leaves behind three children and six
15 grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Richard Santiago, a 31-year-old corrections
17 officer and a resident of Elmwood Park, passed away due to
18 COVID-19; he leaves behind his fiancé, Priscilla, and his son,
19 Janius; and

20 WHEREAS, These members lost their lives while providing

1 essential public safety services; and

2 WHEREAS, The 3,000 CCDOC officers represented by Teamsters
3 Local 700 continue to risk their lives in service to the
4 public; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we recognize the sacrifices made by Sheila Rivera, Antoine
8 Stewart, Antoine Jones, Jose Pedro Marquez, Richard O'Brien,
9 Jason Bobzin, and Richard Santiago, and all of the men and
10 women of the Cook County Department of Corrections represented
11 by Teamsters Local 700; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge Cook County to provide hazard pay to
13 all corrections officers, in recognition of their continued
14 public service under dangerous circumstances; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 presented to the families of Sheila Rivera, Antoine Stewart,
17 Antoine Jones, Jose Pedro Marquez, Richard O'Brien, Jason
18 Bobzin, and Richard Santiago and to Teamsters Local 700.