



HR0421

LRB102 19440 ECR 28207 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of AFL-CIO
4 President Richard "Rich" Louis Trumka, who passed away on
5 August 5, 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Rich Trumka was born to Frank and Eola Bertugli
7 Trumka in Nemacolin, Pennsylvania on July 24, 1949; he
8 attended college and law school; and

9 WHEREAS, A third generation coal miner, Rich Trumka spent
10 his career in the labor movement; in 1982 at the age of 33, he
11 was elected the youngest president of the United Mine Workers
12 of America; he served as the secretary-treasurer of the
13 AFL-CIO for over a decade and was elected president of the
14 organization in 2009; he will especially be remembered as a
15 relentless champion of workers' rights, workplace safety,
16 worker-centered trade, democracy, and much more; during the
17 2008 election, he advocated for then presidential candidate
18 Barack Obama to AFL-CIO members who were hesitant to vote for
19 an African American; after strongly criticizing labor's lack
20 of involvement in past trade negotiations, his support of the
21 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement was key to securing enough
22 Democratic votes to pass the Trump-era trade deal; under his
23 leadership, the federation focused its resources on fighting

1 for the repeal of the so-called "Cadillac tax" on expensive
2 health care plans, raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an
3 hour, and advocating for legislation to broadly expand
4 collective bargaining rights; and

5 WHEREAS, Rich Trumka helped usher a new generation of
6 leaders through his service on the boards of the National
7 Labor College, the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center, and the
8 Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; he served on
9 the boards of the Economic Policy Institute and the Housing
10 Investment Trust; in addition, he served as president emeritus
11 of the United Mine Workers of America; and

12 WHEREAS, Rich Trumka approached each day with a fierce
13 passion to fight for others; when taking respite, he could be
14 found in the great outdoors, hunting, fishing, or camping with
15 his family or with fellow members of the Union Sportsman
16 Alliance; and

17 WHEREAS, Rich Trumka was preceded in death by his parents;
18 his nephew, Bryan Szallar; his great-nephew, Bronson Szallar;
19 his father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Katherine
20 Vidovich; and his brothers-in-law, John Vidovich and David
21 Vidovich; and

22 WHEREAS, Rich Trumka is survived by his wife, Barbara; his

1 son, Rich (Jessica) Trumka Jr.; his sister, Francis (Alex)
2 Szallar; his brother-in-law, Daniel Vidovich; his
3 sisters-in-law, Nella and Nancy; his three grandchildren, Trey
4 and Taylor Trumka and Ki Vidovich; his nieces and nephews; and
5 his many other cousins; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we mourn the passing of AFL-CIO President Richard "Rich" Louis
9 Trumka and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
10 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Richard Trumka as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.