



HR0269

LRB103 32262 LAW 61511 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Gift from the Heart
4 Foundation, also known as Dar Serca, on the occasion of its
5 35th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 40 years ago, Izabela Rybak's late
7 husband, Wademar, came to the United States in 1985 on a
8 tourist visa seeking treatment for their son, Rafal, who was
9 born with cerebral palsy; and

10 WHEREAS, Wademar Rybak wrote to various hospitals
11 requesting assistance and quotes for Rafal's treatment, and
12 Shriners Hospital in Chicago accepted him as a patient with
13 treatment offered at no charge; and

14 WHEREAS, After being granted a tourist visa, Izabela Rybak
15 joined Wademar in the U.S., leaving their two teenage
16 daughters in Poland with family, coming to Chicago with her
17 son; and

18 WHEREAS, Rafal Rybak needed multiple surgeries, so Izabela
19 and Wademar Rybak applied for permanent residency; and

20 WHEREAS, After Izabela and Wademar Rybak legalized their

1 immigration status, their daughters joined them in the U.S.
2 permanently, and the family was reunited after a year apart;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1986, Izabela Rybak met parents of two
5 children with the same disability as her son, who then asked
6 for assistance with their children's treatment; she submitted
7 the necessary paperwork, and their applications were accepted;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Izabela Rybak was required by the hospital to
10 sign an affidavit of support that would ensure proper care,
11 lodging, and transport to the hospital for the families she
12 was helping; she signed the affidavit, even though she was
13 unsure of her own financial situation; and

14 WHEREAS, Izabela Rybak requested support on a Polish radio
15 station broadcast, and the community responded by donating
16 money, furniture, and housing; she then regularly raised
17 awareness for this issue on the radio; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1988, Izabela Rybak cofounded and established
19 Dar Serca, meaning "a gift from the heart" in Polish, an
20 organization to permanently offer assistance to families of
21 children from around the world who required trips to the
22 United States for specialized care; and

1 WHEREAS, Dar Serca, or the Gift from the Heart Foundation,
2 erected a new building in Schiller Park in 2009 that could
3 house six families at a time and provide food, lodging, and
4 transportation, which was made possible by donations from the
5 Polish community; and

6 WHEREAS, After 35 years, the Gift from the Heart
7 Foundation now offers an expanded variety of supportive
8 services; it assists children with orthopedic disabilities,
9 offers extremely complicated cases expert diagnosis and
10 treatment, provides children housing, transportation, and
11 translation services, supplies medications, rehabilitation
12 equipment, and orthopedic devices, covers living expenses for
13 children and their parents from abroad, organizes free summer
14 camps for local children with disabilities, and gives children
15 with illnesses, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down's
16 Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy, the opportunity to attend after
17 school programs that improve their way of living and health;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Due to Izabela Rybak's efforts, the Gift from the
20 Heart Foundation has helped over 1,300 children receive high
21 quality surgeries and medical treatments so they can live
22 healthy and happy lives; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the Gift from the Heart Foundation, also known
4 as Dar Serca, on its 35 years of success helping children with
5 disabilities across the world receive the lifesaving treatment
6 they need in the United States; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we commend Izabela Rybak for her dedication
8 and service to others through the Gift from the Heart
9 Foundation; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to Gift from the Heart Foundation President Dorothy
12 Malachowski, Director Izabela Rybak, and all members of the
13 Gift from the Heart Foundation Board of Directors as an
14 expression of our esteem and respect.