



HR0735

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, More than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities, including nearly 40,000 in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, There are now more than 23,000 names listed among America's fallen law enforcement heroes on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial dating back to 1786, including names from Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, More than 2,400 law enforcement officers have died in the United States in the line of duty during the past decade, an average of one officer fatality every 36 hours; and

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WHEREAS, Members of law enforcement have faced increased challenges over the last several years, and the challenges have been further exacerbated by the drop to a dangerously low level in the retention and recruitment of sworn law enforcement officers, with current numbers showing fewer law enforcement officers per resident than at any other time during the past 25 years; and

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WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers typically encounter between 400 and 600 traumatic events over the course of their career as an officer, compared with three or four traumatic

1 events encountered by the average citizen; and

2 WHEREAS, The unusually high number of traumatic events
3 experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a
4 54% higher suicide rate among officers than among individuals
5 in other jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, The innovative and dedicated efforts of law
7 enforcement officers have successfully reduced crime rates
8 from historic highs; and

9 WHEREAS, Supporting law enforcement officers with the
10 equipment, training, and funding needed to protect communities
11 in Illinois and the United States from criminal violence has
12 long received overwhelming public support from across the
13 political spectrum; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Police Memorial ceremony is
15 scheduled for May 2, 2024, and the week of May 12-18, 2024 has
16 been designated as National Police Week, a time to honor the
17 men and women who serve in law enforcement and pay special
18 tribute to those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice
19 and to the families of those fallen heroes; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we highly respect and value the law enforcement officers of
2 Illinois and the United States and greatly appreciate all that
3 those officers do to protect and serve their communities; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we remember and honor law enforcement
6 officers who have experienced a death or injury in the line of
7 duty and the families of those officers; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we call for increased measures to be taken
9 to maximize the safety and well-being of law enforcement
10 officers, including improvements relating to the retention and
11 recruitment of officers, improved training and equipment for
12 officers, and increased mental health resources for officers;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we call on all levels of government in
15 Illinois and across the United States to ensure that law
16 enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed
17 to keep all communities in Illinois and the United States
18 safe; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we thank all members of law enforcement for
20 their unwavering commitment to serve our communities and to
21 keep us safe.