



HR0935

LRB103 43259 MST 76542 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 Dr.
4 Makita Khem Kheperu, who passed away on October 23, 2024; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu was born in Harvey to Annette and Roy
6 Shabazz on September 8, 1969; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu had an outstanding career in the
8 field of Black education, beginning as a teacher's assistant
9 for the New Concept Development Center before transitioning
10 into the Betty Shabazz Charter School family, where she would
11 cement her impact as a keystone of Black Chicago education via
12 decades of gold-standard work as a teacher, principal,
13 curriculum director, and superintendent; during this time, she
14 continued to model academic and professional excellence,
15 obtaining a master's degree from DePaul University and her
16 doctorate in Urban Education and Leadership from the
17 University of Illinois Chicago; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu, affectionately known as "Mama
19 Makita", was known for her warmth, radiant smile, and unending
20 dedication to the development of Black youth, yet her most
21 significant accomplishment was raising her four brilliant
22 children, whom she held as her pride and joy; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu was kind, brilliant, and generous and
2 made every person she met feel that they were valued,
3 considered, and understood; from hosting schoolwide sleepovers
4 to coordinating international field trips, survival camp
5 outings, or midnight emergency room visits, she made it all
6 look easy; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu was preceded in death by her
8 grandmother, Elinor Vinyard; her aunt, Barbara Johnson; her
9 father, Roy Shabazz; her niece, Maa-Kara Khepra; and many
10 other loved ones; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Kheperu is survived by her children, Jihad
12 Kheperu, Mekhakhem Kheperu, Sunankhem Kheperu, and
13 Subrianakhem Kheperu; her children-in-love, Hahety
14 "Lesedikhem" Taylor and Desmond Owusu; her mother, Annette
15 Shabazz; her brother, Lance Williams; her cousin-best friend,
16 Tharon Johnson; and numerous family, friends, students, and
17 community members; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we mourn the passing of Dr. Makita Khem Kheperu and extend our
21 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
22 and loved her; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Dr. Kheperu as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.