



HR0496

LRB098 12649 GRL 47082 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor the staff and administration of
4 Connection of Friends for their work in serving teenagers and
5 young adults with special needs and developmental disabilities
6 in the Wheaton area; and

7 WHEREAS, In the summer of 2011, Terry and Ginny Kline, the
8 grandparents of 2 special needs children, began researching the
9 availability of programs for special needs students once they
10 reach high school and as they age out of the system; seeing a
11 lack of such programs, they created Connection of Friends to
12 fulfill this need; and

13 WHEREAS, Connection of Friends is a community-based
14 program which offers teenagers and young adults with special
15 needs and developmental disabilities a place to socialize with
16 an emphasis on life skills, volunteer, and recreational
17 activities; the program was created to provide a place for
18 social gatherings and an opportunity for young adults with
19 special needs to participate within their community and utilize
20 vocational and life skills for the benefit of themselves and
21 their communities; and

22 WHEREAS, Connection of Friends serves individuals with

1 autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, and
2 other intellectual disabilities in the western suburbs, which
3 include Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield, Naperville, Glen
4 Ellyn, Downers Grove, and Lisle; and

5 WHEREAS, Programs currently offered at Connection of
6 Friends includes the planning and preparing of a daily meal,
7 volunteering at a food pantry, creating newborn hats for a
8 hospital, music therapy, art, gardening, fitness, yoga,
9 nutrition, product creation, and community lunch; and

10 WHEREAS, Aply led by Executive Director Sarah Donnelly,
11 Program Director Rose McGowan, and Program Leader Rebecca Ross,
12 Connection of Friends also utilizes a Music Therapist and other
13 part-time staff to assist during Saturday Night Socials; other
14 program volunteers include an art teacher, a gardener, and many
15 high school students; and

16 WHEREAS, The staff and administration of Connection of
17 Friends serve as models of hard work, integrity, and dedication
18 for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we honor the staff and administration of Connection of Friends
22 for their work and wish them continued success and happiness in

1 the future; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Connection of Friends as a symbol of our esteem
4 and respect.