



HR0497

LRB099 12113 KTG 34804 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In response to fast-growing defense industries
3 during World War II, Congress passed the Defense Housing and
4 Communities Facilities and Services Act of October 1940, 54
5 Stat. 1125 (commonly known as the Lanham Act), to fund various
6 national defense public works projects; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the public works projects funded under the
8 Lanham Act concerned the construction and maintenance of child
9 care facilities nationwide in communities that lacked
10 sufficient child care services to meet the growing demand for
11 women to enter the workforce and contribute to the nation's war
12 production effort; and

13 WHEREAS, The child care program implemented under the
14 Lanham Act operated from 1943 to 1946 and provided funding not
15 only for the construction of child care facilities, but also to
16 help cover the costs associated with teacher training
17 activities, teacher salaries, and meal services provided at
18 child care facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, Although the child care program implemented under
20 the Lanham Act was viewed as a temporary practical solution to
21 the economic and social demands placed on families,
22 specifically mothers with children, during World War II, many

1 child care advocates consider the Lanham Act a turning point in
2 this country's long-standing policy on child care because it
3 created the first, and only, federally subsidized child care
4 program for children regardless of family income; and

5 WHEREAS, Many child care advocates have studied the social
6 and economic implications of the child care policy established
7 under the Lanham Act and have argued that it increased maternal
8 employment as well as children's educational attainment, labor
9 force participation, and earnings as adults; and

10 WHEREAS, In light of these positive outcomes, child care
11 advocates have called for a return to the child care policy
12 established in the Lanham Act and for a permanent commitment by
13 the federal government to make affordable and high-quality
14 child care services accessible for all working families;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 respectfully urge Congress to pass legislation in support of
19 universal child care services for working families and to
20 provide sufficient and sustainable funding for a permanent
21 child care program similar to the federally administered
22 program created and implemented under the Lanham Act of 1940;
23 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That after adoption, suitable copies of this
2 resolution be delivered to the Speaker and Minority Leader of
3 the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and
4 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and the members
5 of the Illinois congressional delegation.