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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Illinois YouthBuild Coalition was founded by  
3 former President Kerry Knodle in 1996; the following year, the  
4 coalition advocated for the passage of the Illinois YouthBuild  
5 Act by the General Assembly, creating a mechanism for  
6 launching and funding programs; and

7           WHEREAS, The Illinois YouthBuild Coalition (IYC) is  
8 supported by YouthBuild USA; the coalition is comprised of 16  
9 YouthBuild programs in Illinois, which include other  
10 youth-serving organizations with similar purposes; the 16  
11 individual program affiliates currently involved with IYC are  
12 in Aurora, Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago Heights, Decatur,  
13 East St. Louis, Godfrey, North Chicago, Rockford, Rock Island,  
14 Waukegan, and Chicago; all member organizations of the  
15 coalition operate their YouthBuild program according to the  
16 YouthBuild Model; and

17           WHEREAS, The Illinois YouthBuild Coalition is dedicated to  
18 expanding employment and career opportunities for socially and  
19 economically disadvantaged young adults by advocating for an  
20 increase of quality resources and community involvement; it  
21 partners with opportunity youth to build a safe, secure, and  
22 supportive force for change in the larger community; and

1           WHEREAS, YouthBuild programs serve low-income young people  
2           ages 16 to 24 who have barriers to success, which may include  
3           foster care, homelessness, and juvenile justice; these young  
4           people are traditionally known as disenfranchised,  
5           marginalized, at risk, and disconnected; they are too often  
6           defined by the struggles they face both socially and  
7           economically; and

8           WHEREAS, YouthBuild believes that the goals, dreams, and  
9           aspirations of every young person are real; these young people  
10          should be seen for who they really are, and they should receive  
11          support; every young person deserves the opportunity to  
12          develop their untapped potential; and

13          WHEREAS, YouthBuild is a youth and community development  
14          program that simultaneously addresses core issues facing  
15          low-income communities, including housing, education,  
16          employment, crime prevention, and youth leadership  
17          development; and

18          WHEREAS, Because of the YouthBuild programs in Illinois,  
19          low-income young people ages 16 to 24 can work toward their GED  
20          or high school diploma while learning the skills of the  
21          construction industry through hands-on construction  
22          activities; and

1           WHEREAS, The Illinois YouthBuild Coalition will be holding  
2           its annual advocacy day at the State Capitol on April 17, 2024;  
3           therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5           HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6           we recognize the work of Illinois YouthBuild Coalition  
7           President Tameka Wilson, the various staff members, and the 16  
8           State-wide YouthBuild directors and salute them on IYC Day at  
9           the Illinois State Capitol; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11          presented to the Illinois YouthBuild Coalition as a symbol of  
12          our respect and esteem.