



HR0947

LRB103 43152 LAW 76412 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Sylvia Puente on the  
4 occasion of her retirement as president and CEO of the Latino  
5 Policy Forum; and

6           WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente was the first person in her family  
7 to graduate from college; she received a Bachelor of Arts in  
8 Economics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,  
9 completed graduate studies at the John F. Kennedy School of  
10 Government at Harvard University, and earned her master's  
11 degree from the Harris School of Public Policy at the  
12 University of Chicago; and

13           WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente has dedicated her life's work to  
14 public policy on Latino issues while highlighting the vital  
15 role Latinos play in society; she has served as president and  
16 CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, a state-wide, non-profit  
17 advocacy organization in Illinois, for the past 16 years;  
18 prior to that, she served as director at the Center for  
19 Metropolitan Chicago Initiatives for the University of Notre  
20 Dame's Institute for Latino Studies from 2001 to 2008; and

21           WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente's strategic leadership at the  
22 Latino Policy Forum has shaped public policy to improve

1 educational outcomes for children, to make housing more  
2 accessible and affordable, to promote just immigration reform,  
3 and to build on the influence and leadership of Latinos in  
4 Illinois; under her guidance, the organization has promoted  
5 increased access to early education and advocated for more  
6 than \$25 million to build early childhood education centers,  
7 the nation's first ever capitol grant program of its kind; and

8 WHEREAS, Through the Latino Policy Forum, Sylvia Puente  
9 has empowered thousands of parents and communities to advocate  
10 for themselves, their families, and their communities through  
11 the organization's Know Your Rights trainings to access  
12 information regarding bilingual education, fair housing, and  
13 immigrant rights; she has also overseen the evolution of the  
14 Multicultural Leadership Academy, a leadership development  
15 program that has created a vast, powerful, and inspiring  
16 network of nearly 300 Black and Latino leaders, uniting them  
17 to further promote diversity in the region and empower  
18 communities in working collaboratively; and

19 WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente has continually served her  
20 community and the State, being selected by Governor JB  
21 Pritzker to serve on his transition team as part of the  
22 Educational Success Committee, which was tasked with tackling  
23 the State's educational issues, and through her stewardship,  
24 all Illinois children, regardless of immigration status, have

1 access to early childhood education through the State's new  
2 Department of Early Childhood; she also received appointments  
3 from two previous governors to serve on the Illinois Education  
4 Funding Advisory Board and the Illinois Early Learning  
5 Council; more recently, she was instrumental in the passage of  
6 the Work Permits for All resolution in Illinois, calling for  
7 more than 40,000 undocumented immigrants in Illinois to  
8 receive legal work authorization and lawful permanent status  
9 without separation from their families, and its victorious  
10 passage in the 103rd General Assembly served as a catalyst for  
11 generating the most significant action on immigration policy  
12 in the United States since DACA; and

13 WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente also serves as co-chair of the  
14 Illinois Latino Agenda, a partnering organization that  
15 provides opportunities for Latino leaders to work and advocate  
16 as a collective body and through which she played a pivotal  
17 role in establishing the Welcome to Illinois Coalition, an  
18 organization where government, philanthropic organizations,  
19 service providers, everyday people, and volunteers come  
20 together to address the humanitarian crisis in Illinois; she  
21 is also considered a valuable resource for Chicagoland media  
22 outlets for her respected insights on Latino issues and  
23 political trends; and

24 WHEREAS, Sylvia Puente has rightfully earned a national

1 reputation as a bridge builder and a trailblazer, having been  
2 recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the 100  
3 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.; 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 congratulate Sylvia Puente on her retirement as president  
7 and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, and we recognize her impact  
8 on Latino empowerment across the State of Illinois; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Sylvia Puente as an expression of our esteem and  
12 respect.