

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Workers at Carousel Linen in Highwood, Illinois
3 wash and press linens in hot and unsafe working conditions;
4 several workers have reported suffering burns and other
5 severe injuries in this strenuous working environment; and

6 WHEREAS, The Occupational Health and Safety
7 Administration issued 11 citations against Carousel Linen for
8 serious safety violations including blocking fire exits,
9 failing to train workers on the use of hazardous chemicals,
10 and requiring unlicensed workers to operate forklift trucks;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Workers at Carousel Linen work in these hard and
13 dangerous jobs but only earn \$5.15 an hour, well below
14 standards for the laundry industry, with no family health
15 insurance benefits regardless of their seniority; and

16 WHEREAS, The Carousel workers have repeatedly been denied
17 requests for raises during their tenures on the pretext that
18 they do not deserve monetary increases because they do not
19 speak English; and

20 WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of Carousel Linen
21 workers support forming a union; and

22 WHEREAS, Carousel Linen has been found by the National
23 Labor Relations Board to have repeatedly violated federal
24 labor law; workers have been on strike in response to these
25 labor law violations since October, 2001; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate
28 supports the right of workers to organize a union free from
29 harassment and retaliation; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Senate supports the striking

1 Carousel Linen workers in their fight to form a union and
2 improve their wages and working conditions; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Senate calls on Carousel
4 Linen to immediately improve the harsh and unsafe working
5 conditions at its laundry, to voluntarily recognize the
6 workers' union, and to bargain a fair agreement with their
7 workers to end the six-month labor dispute; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Scott
9 Close at Carousel Linen.