



HR0995

LRB097 21254 GRL 68904 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Jeffery Leving for his
4 work in safeguarding the rights of fathers and protecting the
5 welfare of children and families in this State; and

6 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving began his career over 30 years ago,
7 at a time when it was almost unheard of to fight for the rights
8 of fathers and prevail in family court; determined to fight
9 this bias, Mr. Leving and his firm carved a niche practice area
10 and the name Jeffery Leving and the term "Fathers' Rights"
11 became inseparable; and

12 WHEREAS, The Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving, Ltd., has
13 represented fathers, mothers, grandparents, and children, from
14 all walks of life; the firm has worked on high profile cases,
15 such as the reunification of Elian Gonzalez with his father in
16 Cuba; utilizing Mr. Leving's encyclopedic knowledge of
17 national and international law, the firm has also litigated
18 international child abduction cases involving the nations of
19 Egypt, Poland, Argentina, China, and Mexico seeking the
20 reunification of children with parents who had almost abandoned
21 hope that they would ever see their children again; and

22 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving's firm prides itself on its

1 forward-thinking initiatives in the field of law and fathers'
2 rights; every month, he administers a "Continuing Legal
3 Education Think Tank", with featured speakers such as mental
4 health professionals, leading attorneys, and other experts who
5 present to attendees their strategies to maximize and leverage
6 the collective knowledge and resources of the firm, which
7 allows the firm to utilize pragmatic courtroom strategies that
8 are key to the success of the firm and its clients; Mr. Leving
9 is also heavily involved in mapping out strategies for complex
10 and emotionally-charged cases and takes on many of the firm's
11 cases as well; and

12 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving and his firm work diligently to
13 educate fathers of their rights as parents and have effectively
14 advocated for judges to look to the letter and the spirit of
15 the law and refute antiquated preconceptions that mothers were
16 automatically endowed with superior rights to parenting and
17 custody; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to his work at the firm, Jeffery
19 Leving is a founder of the Fatherhood Educational Institute, a
20 not-for-profit charity whose mission is to help indigent
21 fathers reunite with their children through education and
22 support initiatives; he also serves as the Chair of the
23 Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood at the pleasure of
24 the Governor and served as a resource to the first White House

1 Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Town Hall
2 Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families in
3 Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving and his firm have been honored by
5 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children "in
6 recognition and appreciation for their outstanding commitment
7 to the protection of children and the knowledge of the Hague
8 Convention on the civil aspects of international child
9 abduction"; he was also honored by the White House by being
10 presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for his
11 work with the Council on Responsible Fatherhood and was the
12 recipient of the 2012 Professional Achievement Award from the
13 Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law
14 for outstanding achievement in the legal profession; and

15 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving is a co-author of Illinois laws
16 concerning joint custody, virtual child visitation, parenting
17 time interference, and paternity testing; he is also the author
18 of 3 books, "Fathers' Rights", "Divorce Wars", and "How to Be a
19 Good Divorced Dad"; and

20 WHEREAS, Jeffery Leving serves as a model of hard work,
21 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
22 Illinois; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we honor Jeffery Leving for his work in safeguarding the rights
4 of fathers and protecting the welfare of children and families
5 in this State, thank him for his great dedication to this
6 important task, and wish him continued success and happiness in
7 the future; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Jeffery Leving as a symbol of our esteem and
10 respect.