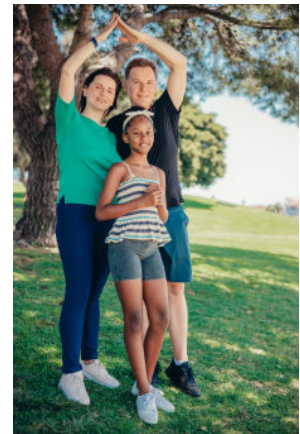




## Illinois House Resolution Advocates for Increased Awareness and Support for Adopted Children

Lake Forest, IL – In a proactive effort to address the unique needs of adopted children and promote their mental health and well-being, the Illinois House of Representatives introduces **House Resolution HJR0063** into the **103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**. The resolution urges members of the General Assembly, their staff, and all state employees to enhance their understanding of the challenges faced by adopted children and the importance of adoption-competent mental health services.



**Spearheaded by Rep. Michelle Mussman (56<sup>th</sup> District), House Resolution HJR0063** underscores the critical role of education and awareness in supporting adopted children across Illinois. The resolution highlights the profound impact adoption can have on a child's mental health and emphasizes the need for comprehensive support systems tailored to their unique experiences.

*"Adoption is a journey filled with complexities, and it's imperative that we equip ourselves with the knowledge and empathy needed to support adopted children effectively,"* stated Laura Adams, President/CEO of iCARE4 Adoptive And Foster Families. *"By raising awareness and promoting adoption-competent mental health services, we can empower adopted children to thrive and reach their full potential."*

House Resolution HJR0063 calls upon all employees of the State of Illinois, including those within key agencies such as the State Board of Education, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, to deepen their understanding of the challenges faced by adopted children. Additionally, employees of school districts and nonpublic schools are encouraged to engage in ongoing education initiatives aimed at supporting adopted children within educational settings.

*"Every child deserves a nurturing and supportive environment to grow and flourish, regardless of their adoption status," emphasized Ms. Adams. "Through collective awareness and concerted efforts, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate society for adopted children and their families."*

As House Resolution HJR0063 progresses through the legislative process, stakeholders are invited to join the conversation and advocate for policies that prioritize the well-being of adopted children statewide.

For more information about House Resolution HJR0063 and its implications for adopted children in Illinois, please visit:

<https://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=63&GAID=17&GA=103&DocTypeID=HJR&LegID=154469&SessionID=112#actions>.

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