



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Dr. Alice Hamilton, a pioneer in occupational health in the United States, was a physician and activist who dedicated her life to addressing human rights and social justice issues of workers; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Alice Hamilton engaged in a lifelong pursuit of identifying, controlling, and preventing hazardous exposures in workplaces in early twentieth century United States, creating the foundation for the discipline of industrial hygiene; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Alice Hamilton distinguished herself through a career of documenting what she believed was worthwhile to improve the lives of workers, particularly focusing on the themes of disciplined inquiry, evidence, objectivity, and gathering information through firsthand experiences in recognizing, assessing and controlling workplaces; and,

WHEREAS, workers' health, and especially low-income workers' health, was among the central concerns of the social reform movement to improve public health in the early 20th century; and,

WHEREAS, in 1910, Illinois Governor Charles Deneen created the Deneen Commission, charged with determining the extent of occupational illness in Illinois by defining and finding poisonous occupations and gaining access to those workplaces. Dr. Alice Hamilton was the lead investigator and general supervisor of the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the outcome of the investigation, reported to the Governor in January 1911, had sentinel importance in Illinois and led to recommendations for legislation establishing an Illinois Occupational Disease Law, requiring employers working with certain hazardous materials to provide safety measures and monthly medical examinations; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Alice Hamilton spent the next 25 years of her life after the conclusion of the Commission's work investigating, researching, educating, and reporting on hazardous work around the United States; and,

WHEREAS, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Report on Occupational Disease in Illinois written by Dr. Alice Hamilton. This investigation made Illinois a model for other states and the federal government and resulted in great advancements in the field of occupational health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, in celebration of this milestone anniversary and in honor of Dr. Alice Hamilton and her legacy, the Illinois Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Education and Research Center, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago is planning a series of events in September, including an afternoon conference to be held September 13, 2011 at the Jane Addams Hull House Museum:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 13, 2011 as **DR. ALICE HAMILTON DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of her lasting legacy and contributions to improving workplace health and safety in the Land of Lincoln and across the country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this THIRTIETH *day of* JUNE *, in*

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

ELEVEN *, and of the State of Illinois*

the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR