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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly recognize that foster youth and alumni are some of the State's most precious, valuable, and vulnerable citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The mission of the Foster Care Alumni of America (FCAA) is to connect the alumni community and to transform policy and practice, ensuring opportunity for people in and from foster care; it seeks to serve and act on behalf of the rights, needs, and well-being of current and former foster youth; and

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WHEREAS, FCAA-IL is one of 23 state chapters that the FCAA has around the country with members dedicated to its mission; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) protects children who are reported to be abused or neglected; it works to increase their families' capacity to safely care for them and provides for the well-being of children in DCFS care; they provide appropriate, permanent families as quickly as possible for those children who cannot safely return home; they support early intervention and child abuse prevention activities, and they work in partnerships with communities to fulfill this mission; and

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1 WHEREAS, The services that DCFS provides include a
2 Statewide Youth Advisory Board whose mission is to advocate and
3 educate all youth in care; the Statewide Youth Advisory Board
4 is committed to youth empowerment, development, leadership,
5 and achievement across the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, FCAA-IL, working together with DCFS and their
7 Statewide Youth Advisory Board, are proud to host the second
8 Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day
9 on May 16, 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, The purpose of this day is to connect current and
11 former foster children with a State legislator to educate them
12 on the legislative process; the legislators spend their day
13 mentoring them; this process helps reshape the impression of
14 who youth in foster care and alumni are and connects
15 legislators to the youth that they impact directly and
16 indirectly; and

17 WHEREAS, The actions of founding FCAA-IL members April
18 Curtis, Jeremy Harvey, and James McIntyre, Acting Director
19 Walker of DCFS, and current and former DCFS Statewide Youth
20 Advisory Board members represent shining examples of those in
21 our communities doing positive things for foster children, past
22 and present, and are responsible for the creation of the Annual

1 Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize May 16, 2018 as the third
6 Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day
7 and acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and significant
8 contributions made to the well-being of current and former
9 foster children; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to all participants in recognition of their efforts.