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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Children and families in the 57th Senate District are among the many fortunate beneficiaries of State Senator James F. Clayborne Jr.'s 23 years of service in the Illinois Senate; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne has a profound interest in helping young people seize opportunities available to them and reach their full potential through education and hard work; and

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WHEREAS, Because Senator Clayborne believes ZIP codes should not determine a child's future, he supported an overhaul of the school funding formula in Illinois, a historic reform that resulted in public schools in the Metro East receiving more than \$18 million in additional funding in its first two years on the books; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne has passed legislation to help schools throughout the Metro East, including a plan to ensure money was available to rebuild the Wolf Branch and Belle Valley middle schools after they were damaged by mine subsidence, to help the Lebanon School District replace an 80-year-old school building, and to fund a remodel of the East St. Louis High School; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne secured millions of dollars to
2 improve the financial health of the East St. Louis School
3 District, and schools he represents have been the recipients of
4 some of the largest downstate school construction grants in
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Because Senator Clayborne believes college should
7 be within reach for all, he advanced measures to bring
8 transparency to college expenses, expanded availability of
9 dual-credit courses, offered college credit for military
10 experience, and created "Promise Zones" to allow low-income
11 students an opportunity to earn scholarships to community
12 colleges; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne mentors local youth and has
14 quietly organized biannual trips to minority colleges and
15 universities for high-performing Metro East high school
16 students who would not otherwise be able to afford to visit
17 these schools or consider them an option for higher education;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne has been one of the few African
20 American legislators from outside of Chicago to serve in the
21 Illinois Senate, offering him an important platform from which
22 to advocate for the needs of people of color and communities in
23 the Metro East; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne is a champion of fairness and
2 economic opportunity for people of color and has sought to hold
3 the government accountable for hiring and contracting with
4 businesses owned by minorities, women, and veterans to ensure
5 the government invests in the communities it serves; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne helped ensure workers from
7 struggling communities in his district benefited from the
8 construction of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge
9 between Illinois and Missouri, a project that employed more
10 than 3,800 minority workers and contracted with 117 small,
11 minority-owned businesses; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne has supported raising the
13 minimum wage, expanding voter access, and extending a key tax
14 credit for developers in places in East St. Louis, all with the
15 hope of growing communities and helping the people of his
16 district prosper; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne, the recipient of a donated
18 kidney, sponsored a plan to allow preservation of a deceased
19 person's organs for 24 hours until family can be notified, and
20 he advocated for the passage of a life-saving measure to allow
21 teenagers to register for the organ and tissue donor registry
22 in Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, After 23 years of service to the 57th Senate
2 District and the people of Illinois, Senator Clayborne has
3 elected to bid farewell to the Illinois Senate; during his
4 career, he established a reputation as a knowledgeable,
5 pragmatic, and committed public servant; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne has served as the Senate
7 Majority Leader, the second highest-ranking member of the
8 Senate, since 2009; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne's public service began when he
10 was an assistant state's attorney in the St. Clair County
11 State's Attorney's Office; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne's family put down roots in
13 Missouri and in the Illinois Metro East after the Civil War and
14 instilled in him a deep respect and appreciation for teachers,
15 education, and hard work; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Clayborne's future plans include focusing
17 on his law practice and spending more time with his wife,
18 Amber, his four sons, his stepdaughter, and his grandchildren;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator
2 Clayborne for his dedicated service to the people of Illinois
3 and for his significant contributions to the State, and we wish
4 him the best in his future endeavors; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Senator Clayborne as an expression of our
7 gratitude and respect.