



SR0248

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate 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 fourth
8 Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day
9 on May 15, 2019; 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 Chapter President
18 James McIntyre, National Board Chair April Curtis, and current
19 and former DCFS Statewide Youth Advisory Board members
20 represent shining examples of those in our communities doing
21 positive things for foster children, past and present, and are
22 responsible for the creation of the Annual Illinois Foster

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

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 15, 2019
4 as the fourth Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni
5 Legislative Shadow Day and acknowledge the dedication, hard
6 work, and significant contributions made to the well-being of
7 current and former foster children; and be it further

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