



SR0307

LRB101 11995 MST 59340 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan declared May as National Foster Care Month to recognize the important contributions that foster parents make to society and to the most vulnerable among us by opening their homes to abused and abandoned children; and

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WHEREAS, The number of children in foster care in Illinois has been increasing at an alarming pace; thousands of Illinois children, through no fault of their own, have been separated from their families and are living in foster care; and

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WHEREAS, The number of foster children in Illinois has reached more than 18,000 and has increased by more than 1,000 over the past four years; and

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WHEREAS, Children in foster care are of all ages and backgrounds; many of them are accompanied by younger brothers and sisters; they need the comfort, support, and security that only a family can provide; and

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WHEREAS, Many foster children will never be re-united with their biological families; approximately half of foster children will not be returned to their birth families; and

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WHEREAS, Most of the children under care of the State live

1 in temporary situations with either relatives or foster
2 families; some live in professionally-staffed group settings;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Children deserve the love and security of a home
5 and a 'forever' family; adoption offers stability and better
6 outcomes for children in foster care, allowing them to flourish
7 in a safe, welcoming, and stable environment; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois lags the nation, ranking last among the
9 50 states, in the permanent placement and adoption of children
10 in its foster care system; and

11 WHEREAS, Illinois is committed to ensuring that children
12 grow up in healthy, safe, and loving homes; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May of 2019
15 as Foster Care Month in Illinois and urge the Department of
16 Children and Family Services to facilitate and encourage the
17 adoption of children in foster care throughout the State; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Director of Children and Family Services.