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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Senate recognizes that the sequencing of the human genome is one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past hundred years and expresses support for the goals and ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day; and

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WHEREAS, April 25, 2019 will be the 66th anniversary of the publication of the description of the double-helix structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in Nature magazine by James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick, which is considered by many scientists to be one of the most significant scientific discoveries of the 20th century; and

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WHEREAS, Their discovery launched a field of inquiry that explained how DNA carries biological information in the genetic code and how this information is duplicated and passed from generation to generation, forming the stream of life that connects us all to our ancestors and to our descendants; and

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WHEREAS, In turn, this field of inquiry was crucial to the founding and continued growth of the field of biotechnology, which has led to historic scientific and economic advances for the world, advances in which the people of the United States have played a leading role and from which they have realized

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1 significant benefits; and

2 WHEREAS, April of 2019 marks the 16th anniversary of the  
3 completion of the international Human Genome Project, a  
4 research effort led in the United States by the National Human  
5 Genome Research Institute to sequence the DNA base pairs of the  
6 human genome for the first time and make this information  
7 freely available to the public; and

8 WHEREAS, The Human Genome Project has provided an exemplary  
9 model for social responsibility in scientific research by  
10 devoting significant resources to studying the ethical, legal,  
11 and social implications of the project; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 25,  
14 2019 as DNA Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That schools, museums, cultural organizations,  
16 and other educational institutions are encouraged to recognize  
17 Human Genome Month and DNA Day with appropriate programs and  
18 activities centered on human genomics.