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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Mable Louise Blackwell of Chicago, who passed away on December 22, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell was born in Decatur, Alabama on February 15, 1947 to Herman Tennis and Ruth Kathryn (nee Ewing) Blackwell; her family relocated in 1953 and she spent her childhood years in Champaign; she studied at Lawhead Elementary School, Willard Elementary School, Franklin Junior High School (now Franklin Middle School), and Champaign Senior High School (now Central High School); she attended Andrew Jackson High School in Queens, New York in 1964 and returned to graduate from Champaign Senior High School in 1965; she later attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where she was initiated into the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Xi Chapter in 1968; she continued her education at Chicago State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences in 1972 and later a Master of Arts in Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1974; she earned her M.D. in 1978 in Pediatrics and later a Master of Public Health in 1986, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Dr. Mable Blackwell used

1 her medical training in service as a practicing physician,
2 medical administrator, and academician; she held positions at
3 Mercy Hospital and Medical Center and John H. Stroger, Jr.
4 Hospital of Cook County; she served as the Regional Medical
5 Director for the Chicago Department of Public Health, the
6 Medical Director for the Illinois Department of Human Services,
7 and the Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director for the Will
8 County Health Department and Community Health Center; for
9 almost 10 years, she served as a Clinical Associate Professor
10 in the Department of Pediatrics and as the Director of the
11 Office of Public Health Practice at the University of Illinois
12 at Chicago College of Medicine; while as a professor and
13 administrator at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she
14 served as a consultant to the Illinois Office of Inspector
15 General, Division of Medical Integrity; she was also a Visiting
16 Professor at Chicago State University; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell's service extended nationally
18 and internationally, as well as within the State of Illinois;
19 she served as a Professional Peer Reviewer for the United
20 States Department of Health and Human Resources' Health
21 Resources and Service Administration, the National Institute
22 of Health, the National Cancer Institute Office of Cancer
23 Program Support, and the United States Department of Education
24 Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education; her
25 concern for providing adequate healthcare for infants,

1 children, and adults throughout the world led her to visit and
2 examine health delivery practices, access, and barriers
3 throughout West Africa, Japan, China, Thailand, Mexico, and
4 South Africa, which included serving as an invited planning
5 meeting participant on the Establishing a Post Apartheid Health
6 System for South Africa conference sponsored by the W.K.
7 Kellogg Foundation at the University of Illinois at Chicago;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell was a Fellow of the American
10 Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy for Cerebral
11 Palsy and Developmental Medicine; she was awarded several
12 research grants for her work in minority and adolescent
13 medicine and in support of her public service and public health
14 initiatives; some of those awards include the Adolescent Access
15 to Healthcare, the American Teachers of Preventive Medicine,
16 University of Illinois; Healthy Solutions, American Academy of
17 Pediatrics; Health Professions School Service to the Nation,
18 Pew Health Commission, University of California at San
19 Francisco; Community Based Public Health 2000, W.K. Kellogg
20 Foundation; Public Health Practice Initiative, Health Resource
21 Services Administration, U.S. Public Health Service,
22 Department of Human Services; Community-Based Public Health
23 Practice, Leadership Development, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell served as the CEO of Blackwell

1 Consulting Services, Inc. in Public Health Services, serving
2 the southern Chicago metropolitan area; she managed the Title
3 II Specialized Training and Education Program Services
4 (STEPS), Mayor's Office of Employment and Training; she was a
5 member of the American Medical Association, the American
6 Society for Healthcare Risk Management and Patient Safety, the
7 American Public Health Association, the American Medical
8 Directors Association, and the Cook County Physicians
9 Association; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell was deeply committed to her
11 family and friends and was forever mindful of the contributions
12 her parents made to their community, as well as to her and her
13 siblings' lives; in honor of her parents, she founded the
14 Herman T. and Ruth K. Blackwell Foundation INC, a non-profit
15 public charity established to support and encourage
16 communities in improving the quality of life for themselves and
17 future generations; proceeds from the Foundation are an endowed
18 scholarship by the same name at Morehouse College; she served
19 as Chairperson of the Foundation until her death; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell was baptized at St. Luke
21 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Champaign; in 1995, she
22 joined Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago and became an
23 active member; she was involved with the Project Jeremiah and
24 the Yoga ministries; she enjoyed gardening, yoga, and playing

1 tennis; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell was preceded in death by her
3 parents, Herman T. and Ruth K. Blackwell; her brothers, Duane
4 W. Blackwell and William N. Blackwell; and her sister, Diana D.
5 Polk; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Mable Blackwell is survived by her daughter,
7 Samantha S. Fields and son, Ryan E. Fields; her sisters,
8 Dorothy R. Coleman (Dejustice), Doris K. Butts (Stanley), Wilma
9 J. Conwell, Clara Johnson (Samuel), and Ave M. Blackwell
10 Alvarado; her brothers, Robert T. Blackwell (Carolyn) and
11 Victor E. Blackwell (Kimberly); and host of nephews, nieces,
12 cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Dr. Mable Louise Blackwell, and extend our sincere condolences
16 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Dr. Mable Blackwell as an expression
20 of our deepest sympathy.