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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The recent stream of #METOO in news feeds on
3 social media sites has encouraged women to publicly acknowledge
4 acts ranging from micro-aggressions to pure viciousness; and

5 WHEREAS, Every industry has its own version of the 'casting
6 couch', and in Illinois, women who work in government and
7 politics are painfully aware that sexism and misogyny are alive
8 and well; and

9 WHEREAS, It has been reported and secretly known for some
10 time that some male legislators, lobbyists, and staffers use
11 their influence and power inappropriately when interacting
12 with female legislators, lobbyists, and staffers; and

13 WHEREAS, No woman should have to contend with anyone who
14 intimates that her professional assent is solely dependent on
15 how quickly she responds to unwanted advances; and

16 WHEREAS, No female legislator, lobbyist, legislative
17 staffer or campaign worker should feel abused, threatened,
18 extorted, or forced to engage in sex while doing their job; and

19 WHEREAS, With each act of aggression, a woman internalizes
20 the idea that she is not enough, that she somehow deserves

1 this, that the only way to get ahead is to endure this type of
2 dehumanizing behavior, with a smile no less; and

3 WHEREAS, It is a truly exhausting and an utterly defeating
4 way to live, and no woman should have to endure it, especially
5 under the guise of doing public work; and

6 WHEREAS, When women choose to leave careers in public
7 service due to harassment and sexual misconduct, all
8 Illinoisans suffer the loss of their commitment to creating a
9 better Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Every woman in every industry, regardless of age,
11 race, physical appearance, gender expression, socioeconomic
12 status, or sexual orientation, has a #METOO story; and

13 WHEREAS, Many women have not felt safe enough to share on
14 social media because the truth can still cost you your career
15 unless enough of us speak up; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that members of the General
17 Assembly have adopted policies against sexual harassment in the
18 workplace and training is available, the culture of harassment
19 persists and extends beyond those subject to such policies; and

20 WHEREAS, The women of the Illinois General Assembly have

1 been empowered by the brave women who represent us all and have
2 taken a stand; and

3 WHEREAS, The time has come for us to raise our collective
4 voices, share our stories, and say #NOMORE; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
7 CONCURRING HEREIN, that those supporting this resolution are
8 committed to saying #IWILL do better and I will work with my
9 colleagues to change the culture that breeds such behavior; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly work to
12 find solutions and ways to change the culture of sexual
13 harassment in Springfield and throughout politics in Illinois;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That in this upcoming election cycle, we say
16 #NOMORE and commit to challenging every elected official, every
17 candidate, every staffer, and every participant in our
18 democratic process who is culpable to do better and say
19 #NOMORE; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 presented to every member of the General Assembly, the Illinois

1 Congressional Delegation, and the President of the United
2 States.