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LRB100 12914 MST 26843 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of the United States, where he reiterated that he would be "A President for all Americans"; and

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WHEREAS, There are considerable ethical concerns in terms of the election and Donald Trump's selected staff; and

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WHEREAS, Our democracy is premised on the bedrock principle that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has attempted on two separate occasions to undermine this nation's Constitution by instituting travels bans targeting specific ethnic and religious minorities; and

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WHEREAS, A recent rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric and criminal activity has been attributed to Americans that fervently support the Trump administration and have cited that Trump's nationalist rhetoric has emboldened them to carry out their hateful missions; and

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WHEREAS, The Trump business empire has been embroiled in

1 questionable business dealings from which Donald J. Trump has
2 refused to release various financial records and documents
3 concerning his personal income, along with that of his
4 business; and

5 WHEREAS, The Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United
6 States Constitution provides that, besides the fixed salary for
7 his or her four-year term, the President "shall not receive
8 within that Period any other Emolument from the United States,
9 or any of them"; and

10 WHEREAS, The term "emoluments" includes a broad range of
11 financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary
12 payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market
13 value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and
14 favorable regulatory treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Leading constitutional scholars and government
16 ethics experts warned Donald J. Trump shortly after the
17 November 2016 election that, unless he fully divested his
18 businesses and invested the money in conflict-free assets or a
19 blind trust, he would violate the Constitution from the moment
20 he took office; and

21 WHEREAS, On January 11, 2017, nine days before his
22 inauguration, Donald J. Trump announced a plan that would, if

1 carried out, remove him from day-to-day operations of his
2 businesses, but not eliminate any of the ongoing flow of
3 emoluments from foreign governments, state governments, or the
4 United States government; and

5 WHEREAS, From the moment he took office, President Trump
6 was in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the
7 Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in
10 Washington, whose chair and vice chair of the board of
11 directors are Norman L. Eisen and Richard W. Painter, who led
12 the administration's ethics policies under President Barack
13 Obama and President George W. Bush, respectively, has filed a
14 federal lawsuit against Donald J. Trump alleging that his
15 "business interests are creating countless conflicts of
16 interest, as well as unprecedented influence by foreign
17 governments"; and

18 WHEREAS, As Donald Trump has repeatedly attempted to thwart
19 investigations into his personal business dealings, he has also
20 obstructed similar attempts to examine the Trump
21 Administration's ties to representatives of hostile foreign
22 nations; and

1 WHEREAS, In May of 2017, Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI
2 Director James Comey as Mr. Comey began to intensify the
3 Bureau's investigation into alleged Russian interference in
4 the 2016 General Election and the possibility of collaboration
5 with the Trump campaign; and

6 WHEREAS, During a meeting at the White House on May 10,
7 2017, Donald J. Trump appears to have leaked highly classified
8 information to Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian
9 Federation Sergey Lavrov and Ambassador of the Russian
10 Federation to the United States Sergey Kislyak; and

11 WHEREAS, These violations truly undermine the integrity of
12 the Presidency, corruptly advance the personal wealth of the
13 President, and violate the public trust; and

14 WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article II of the United States
15 Constitution provides, that "The President, Vice President and
16 all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from
17 Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery,
18 or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors"; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United
21 States House of Representatives to support a resolution
22 authorizing and directing the House Committee on the Judiciary

1 to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the
2 impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States,
3 including but not limited to the violations listed herein; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitably copy of this resolution be
6 transmitted to all members of the United States Senate, all
7 members of the United States House of Representatives, all
8 members of the Illinois General Assembly, and the Governor of
9 the State of Illinois.