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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, State Senator Donne E. Trotter has proudly represented the 17th Legislative Senate District including the communities of Chicago's South Side and Will and Kankakee counties in the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Trotter is a lifelong Illinois resident; he was born in Cairo and moved to Chicago at an early age, where he currently resides; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has a long lineage in Chicago, dating back to 1900 when his great-grandfather, a Choctaw Indian by the name of Granville Trotter, came from Oklahoma; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Trotter's parents, James and Carita Trotter, were activists, taking part in the Civil Rights movement and influencing him to be active in the community; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Trotter began his work in public service as a student at Chicago State University; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Trotter was part of the first graduating class at the Loyola University School of Law to earn a master's degree in Health Policy of Jurisprudence; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter's work in politics began with his
2 friend and neighbor, Congressman Ralph Metcalfe's 1974
3 campaign; with his campaign skills and knowledge of the Chicago
4 area, he became a legislative assistant for State
5 Representative Lewis A.H. Caldwell; he helped register
6 thousands of voters during Harold Washington's 1983 mayoral
7 campaign; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter succeeded Carol Moseley-Braun in
9 the Illinois House of Representatives in 1988, serving for four
10 years; he was sworn in as a state senator in 1993 after a
11 successful run for an open seat; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has been an influential and
13 positive presence in his diverse district, including parts of
14 the City of Chicago, Will County, and Kankakee County; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter played a major role in health care
16 for the people in the 17th district and throughout the State,
17 having extensive experience as a hospital administrator at Cook
18 County Hospital and the Cook County Department of Health; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter initially joined the Senate as a
20 point person on health care and under the leadership of Senate
21 President Emil Jones Jr.; he was encouraged to join the

1 Appropriations Committee to better learn the budget process;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has taken on leadership roles in
4 the Senate, including Assistant Majority Leader, Chairman of
5 the Appropriations Committee, and chief budget negotiator for
6 the Democrats; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter earned a seat at the negotiation
8 table not just on health and budget issues, but on all policy
9 issues; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has earned the respect of other
11 elected officials throughout the State of Illinois, fighting to
12 enforce parity in education, health care, and working to create
13 economic development in disadvantaged communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter spearheaded major health care and
15 social service initiatives, including KidCare/FamilyCare and
16 SeniorCare initiatives, which extended health benefits to over
17 270,000 low-income children, parents, and seniors previously
18 without coverage; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter advocated for the School of
20 Pharmacy at Chicago State University; during the most recent
21 budget impasse, he fought to keep Chicago State University open

1 along with other state universities; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter prioritized public safety,
3 ushering in the first comprehensive law banning assault
4 weapons; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has helped save many newborn lives
6 by sponsoring the Safe Haven Act, where babies can be
7 surrendered to hospitals, firehouses, and other safe havens
8 without fear of criminal charges; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter was the first chairman of the
10 Illinois Legislative Joint Black Caucus; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter has held leadership positions on
12 the national level with the National Conference of State
13 Legislators, the Council of State Government, the National
14 Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and National Black
15 Caucus of State Legislators; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter highly valued mentoring the
17 younger generation of professionals in both elected and
18 non-elected positions; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Trotter is a the loving father of three
20 daughters, Gina, Tasha, and Toni; one son, Elijah; and six

1 grandchildren; and

2 WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, Senator Trotter will
3 continue to use his voice as an advocate; he will also enjoy
4 his retirement with his lovely wife, Rose, traveling the globe,
5 walking the dogs, puffing on a stogie, and with endless hours
6 of reading; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank State Senator
9 Donne E. Trotter for his dedicated service to the people of
10 Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Senator Trotter with our best wishes for all his
13 future endeavors.