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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Special Olympics serves children, adults, and adults of advancing age who have been diagnosed with an intellectual disability limiting their adaptive skills necessary to live, work, and contribute in the community; and

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WHEREAS, The Special Olympics movement was launched in July of 1968 when Anne McGlone Burke and Eunice Kennedy Shriver led 1,000 intellectually disabled athletes from 26 states and Canada to Chicago's Soldier Field to compete in Olympic-styled track and field events; and

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WHEREAS, In July of 2018, the Special Olympics will commemorate its 50th Anniversary through a series of week-long events in Chicago highlighting the evolution of the Special Olympics from exclusive sports meant only for people with intellectual disabilities to inclusive sports meant for all and launching the next 50 years of inclusion; approximately 70,000 are expected to attend; and

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WHEREAS, The Unified Football Cup will take place July 17, 2018 through July 20, 2018 in which Special Olympics Unified Football teams representing every region of the world will come to Chicago for an inaugural global tournament, in partnership with the Chicago Fire Soccer Club and ESPN; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Eternal Flame of Hope Monument dedication in
2 Chicago at the main entrance of the Museum Campus and Soldier
3 Field will take place on July 20, 2018 and will include a
4 ceremony on the 50th birthday of the Special Olympics
5 dedicating a permanent monument to the organization and its
6 athletes; and

7 WHEREAS, The Law Enforcement Torch Run will take place on
8 July 20, 2018 and will include a ceremonial Law Enforcement
9 Torch Run featuring hundreds of law enforcement officers and
10 Special Olympics athletes from Chicago and the world; and

11 WHEREAS, The Global Day of Inclusion Festival and Concert
12 will take place on July 21, 2018 in Chicago and will include
13 athletes from the first Games in 1968 who will be joined by
14 present day athletes to tell the Special Olympics Story; it
15 will include a festival of activities bringing together the
16 world's top musicians, athletes, artists, celebrities, global
17 leaders, donors, and partners to celebrate and advance the
18 Special Olympics' inclusion movement and "Choose to Include"
19 message around the globe through attendance, marketing, and
20 digital opportunities; and

21 WHEREAS, Each of the events for the 50th Anniversary will
22 include goals of raising awareness, enhancing outreach,

1 support, and education, and, most importantly, engaging the
2 next generation of individuals with and without disabilities
3 who will carry the "Flame of Hope" for inclusive communities
4 into the next 50 years; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we fully support the
7 50th anniversary celebration of the Special Olympics and are
8 encouraged to participate in the events surrounding the
9 celebration; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we congratulate all Special Olympics
11 athletes, past and present, on their remarkable
12 accomplishments on and off the field; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we declare July of 2018, the month of the
14 50th anniversary of the first International Special Olympics
15 Summer Games, as Special Olympics Month in the State of
16 Illinois.