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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Members of religious, racial, and ethnic minority
3 groups throughout Illinois are suffering from a continuing
4 series of attacks and desecrations fueled by hate and
5 intolerance; and

6 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported a
7 frightening 17 percent increase in hate crimes, a 37 percent
8 increase in anti-Jewish offenses, and a 23 percent increase in
9 overall religious-based crimes, resulting in the worse climate
10 for religious-based crimes since the immediate period post
11 September 11, 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, 59.6 percent of hate crimes target their victims
13 based on race, ethnicity, or ancestry with the FBI reporting a
14 16 percent increase in hate crimes targeting African Americans;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Hate crimes have increased nationally each of the
17 past three years, and every region of Illinois has experienced
18 hate crimes and hate-fueled vandalism, including Sunset Hill
19 Cemetery in Glen Carbon, where over 200 headstones and
20 monuments were desecrated with spray-painted swastikas, the
21 anti-Semitic swastika graffiti that targeted the Loop
22 Synagogue in Chicago, the horrific, racist graffiti at Oak Park

1 River Forest High School, and the racist and white supremacist
2 notes targeting students at Southern Illinois University
3 Edwardsville; and

4 WHEREAS, Half of the hate crimes reported occur in Chicago,
5 and 50 percent are reported elsewhere in the State; the
6 Southern Poverty Law Center reports that there are 34 active
7 hate groups in Illinois, throughout all regions, targeting
8 nearly every race, religion, and sexual orientation; and

9 WHEREAS, Latino, immigrant, Asian-American, and Muslim
10 communities throughout Illinois are reporting incidents of
11 prejudice and intolerance; and

12 WHEREAS, State and local law enforcement in Illinois report
13 a surge in racial and religious vandalism and acts of violence
14 in recent months; and

15 WHEREAS, Educators agree that tolerance and acceptance
16 must be taught at an early age; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois communities targeted by hatred have
18 worked together throughout our State's history to help each
19 other overcome intolerance; and

20 WHEREAS, Examples include Illinois residents of all

1 backgrounds and regions who joined the abolition movement in
2 the 1800s, Jewish, Latino, and Asian-American community
3 leaders who worked with African-American leaders during
4 Chicago's civil rights and open housing movements, and leaders
5 of diverse groups who stood in solidarity with Jewish leaders
6 at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History
7 following the killing of 11 people at the Tree of Life
8 Synagogue in 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, The Simon Wiesenthal Center is a
10 globally-recognized human rights organization that teaches the
11 importance of tolerance and working in diverse Illinois
12 communities; the center is named for Simon Wiesenthal, a
13 holocaust survivor who had over 80 members of his family
14 murdered by the Nazis, who went on to lead the global movement
15 to hold Nazis accountable for their crimes; and

16 WHEREAS, The Simon Wiesenthal Center runs the acclaimed
17 Museum of Tolerance, which has educated millions of students
18 about the importance of fighting prejudice, as well as a
19 successful mobile tolerance center, which brings these lessons
20 to schools and other community locations; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we commend and support the Simon Wiesenthal Center on its

1 efforts to bring mobile tolerance education to communities
2 throughout Illinois to help prevent further incidents of hate
3 and discrimination.