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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Established in 1860, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America believe that who you are, where you are from, or the circumstances that surround you should not determine your access to opportunities; clubs in Illinois are committed to a focus on solutions and policies that will have the greatest impact on the youth of this State and the fight to strengthen them; Illinois's youth have a voice that should be heard, and working together will close the opportunity gap for all youth in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The Boys & Girls Clubs have a mission to enable all young people, especially those who are most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs have been active in the State from Carbondale to Chicago for an average of 46 years; at least three clubs have now provided more than a century of service in their communities; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs provides services to over 63,000 youths at about 100 facilities throughout the State with the support of programs such as Teen REACH and 21st Century Community Learning Centers and funding

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1 from community foundations, grants, and the generosity of  
2 private donors; and

3 WHEREAS, The Teen REACH program is unique to Illinois and  
4 represents a partnership between the State of Illinois, through  
5 the Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Alliance of  
6 Boys & Girls Clubs that is now entering its 20th year of  
7 working together to provide great futures for the youth of  
8 Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Every \$1 invested in a Boys & Girls Club returns  
10 \$11 to its community and to those served; the Illinois Alliance  
11 of Boys & Girls Clubs spends \$29 million annually to provide  
12 programs to help kids in school, strengthen families, teach  
13 valuable life skills, and build strong communities that result  
14 in a \$317 million benefit to its youth members and to Illinois  
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Since 1947, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America have  
17 awarded the National Youth of the Year Award to an exceptional  
18 young person, the highest award that can be earned by club  
19 members; youths between the ages of 14 and 18 are first  
20 selected at the club level, then at the state level; selected  
21 youths go on to represent their club at the regional and  
22 national levels; and

1           WHEREAS, Since 2013, the Boys & Girls Clubs have also  
2 awarded a Military Youth of the Year award to a youth receiving  
3 services and living on a military base, and April is the Month  
4 of the Military Child; and

5           WHEREAS, Youth of the Year candidates are given the  
6 opportunity to demonstrate and learn leadership skills,  
7 service to their communities, academic excellence, and healthy  
8 lifestyles, all while learning invaluable experience as public  
9 speakers and ambassadors; and

10           WHEREAS, The Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is  
11 holding their annual Illinois Youth of the Year celebration on  
12 April 9th & 10th in concert with National Boys & Girls Club  
13 Week of April 8-12, 2019; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we commend the Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs on its  
17 dedication to the youth of Illinois and applaud all of the 2019  
18 Illinois Youth of the Year nominees for their determination to  
19 excel and serve as an example to other youths throughout the  
20 State; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That suitable copies be given to the State  
22 nominees and to their Boys & Girls Club chapters.