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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the
3 novel coronavirus that has resulted in a worldwide pandemic
4 infecting almost 3 million people around the globe and taking
5 200,000 lives; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has battled the virus valiantly, with
7 803,973 tests performed so far and the number growing every
8 day; and

9 WHEREAS, The State's efforts and response were led by the
10 Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Dr. Ngozi
11 Ezike, who joined the department after serving Cook County
12 Health for more than 15 years; and

13 WHEREAS, In Dr. Ezike's last role with Cook County Health,
14 she served as medical director at the Cook County Juvenile
15 Detention Center, the largest single site juvenile detention
16 facility in the country; and

17 WHEREAS, During Dr. Ezike's time with the Cook County
18 Juvenile Detention Center, she was instrumental in creating and
19 implementing the facility's health policies as the first step
20 of many for coming out of federal receivership and achieving
21 national accreditation for the detention center; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Ezike has previously served as the medical
2 director for the Austin Health Center on the West Side of
3 Chicago, where she engaged with the community through health
4 initiatives involving obesity, diabetes, and breastfeeding;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Ezike graduated with honors from Harvard
7 College with a concentration in chemistry; she earned her
8 medical degree from the University of California at San Diego;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Ezike is a national policy advisor on juvenile
11 correctional health topics, and she has presented at numerous
12 local and national conferences for medical professionals and
13 youth audiences alike; and

14 WHEREAS, Much of the State's response to the COVID-19
15 pandemic has been guided by Dr. Ezike's leadership; she has
16 been a strong, steadfast, and empathetic voice to the entire
17 State; with her cheerful yet resolved demeanor, she has bridged
18 gaps to enhance connectivity as the State battles this
19 pandemic; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we commend Dr. Ngozi Ezike on her continued leadership and
2 commitment to the Department of Public Health and the State of
3 Illinois during the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Dr. Ezike as an expression of our esteem and
6 respect.