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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a serious public health problem;
3 along with unwanted sexual contact and verbal sexual
4 harassment, sexual assault is a major human rights and social
5 justice issue that affects millions of women, men, and children
6 in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, People of all genders and ages are victims of
8 sexual assault; it is estimated that nearly one in two women
9 and one in five men experience sexual violence, other than
10 rape, throughout their lifetime; and

11 WHEREAS, Sexual assault affects women, men, and children of
12 all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and socioeconomic
13 groups in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and
15 emotional costs, sexual assault survivors frequently suffer
16 from severe and long-lasting effects, including posttraumatic
17 stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression,
18 homelessness, eating disorders, low self-esteem, and suicide;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength and
21 courage of the victims of sexual assault and acknowledge the

1 challenges they face, along with their families and friends, as
2 they struggle to cope with the reality of sexual assault; and

3 WHEREAS, It is also important to recognize the compassion
4 and dedication of the individuals involved in addressing this
5 public health problem and to applaud their commitment to foster
6 healing and increase public understanding of sexual assault;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Many states and organizations join the effort each
9 year to address the problem of sexual assault, to educate the
10 public, and to advocate for the prevention of sexual violence;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 2019
14 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we wholeheartedly support State, national,
16 and global commitment to bring awareness to the causes,
17 effects, and prevention of sexual assault.