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LRB101 11261 ALS 56569 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, President Trump declared a national emergency on Friday, January 15, 2019 by falsely declaring that there is an invasion of drugs, human traffickers, criminals, and gangs in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, By declaring a national emergency, President Trump plans to take funding away from military projects, including facility maintenance, family housing at military bases across the country, and schools for children of members of the military; and

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WHEREAS, President Trump will use \$600 million from a Treasury Department forfeiture fund, \$2.5 billion from a military anti-drug account, and \$3.6 billion in military construction funds to fund a permanent wall to help civilian agencies police the border, even though Congress already appropriated \$1.375 billion for new border barriers; and

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WHEREAS, During his run for the presidency, candidate Trump used racist, xenophobic talking points and, at one point, accused Mexican immigrants of bringing drugs and crime into the country and of being rapists; he also claimed that Mexico, a sovereign nation, would pay for the wall; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security has stated  
2 that undocumented immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated  
3 for crimes in the United States than native-born Americans, and  
4 that number has consistently declined since 2016; and

5           WHEREAS, The number of unauthorized immigrants who have  
6 crossed the border without documents has sharply declined; when  
7 candidate Trump took office, the number of undocumented  
8 immigrants had decreased from 12.2 million in 2007 to 10.7  
9 million in 2016; and

10           WHEREAS, The Trump Administration's own 2018 Drug Threat  
11 Assessment found that only a small percentage of heroin seized  
12 by Customs and Border Protection Agents along the land border  
13 was between ports of entry; most of the drugs seized by Customs  
14 and Border Protection Agents were along the United  
15 States-Mexico border in the San Diego corridor; and

16           WHEREAS, By the President's own admission, he "did not have  
17 to [declare a national emergency], but he just wanted [the  
18 wall] built faster to fulfill a campaign promise"; a national  
19 emergency is a situation that is immediately threatening the  
20 livelihood of Americans, not something declared to appease a  
21 President; and

22           WHEREAS, Congress is the branch in charge of federal

1 appropriations, a power granted to the legislative branch by  
2 the United States Constitution; the executive branch does not  
3 have the power to override Congress's appropriation powers for  
4 a manufactured emergency; and

5 WHEREAS, President Trump is abusing the power of executive  
6 orders to circumvent the United States Constitution and  
7 Congress to override the American people's will to not fund the  
8 wall; Congress compromised and allocated funds to reinforce  
9 border patrol and existing walls; if the President seeks more  
10 funding, he should use the art of the deal to negotiate a  
11 compromise that better suits his need; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we reject President  
14 Trump's national emergency that is fueled by racist and  
15 xenophobic rhetoric; we urge Congress and the Courts to uphold  
16 our system of checks and balances and the existence of  
17 separation of powers between the judicial, legislative, and  
18 executive branches; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to reject the diversion of  
20 funding from military projects, including facility  
21 maintenance, family housing at military bases across the  
22 country, and schools for children of members of the military;  
23 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to revoke the national  
2 emergency by passing a joint resolution to revoke the  
3 unnecessary state of emergency.