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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, For 100 years, Easterseals has been a leading
3 advocate and service provider for children and adults with
4 disabilities, veterans, older adults, caregivers, and their
5 families; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1919, following the sudden death of his son,
7 Edgar Allen founded an organization, now known as Easterseals,
8 to highlight and address the health care and service needs of
9 children with disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1945, Easterseals expanded its
11 children-focused mission by opening its programs and services
12 to include adults to meet the emerging and increasing needs of
13 returning WWII veterans and other adults with disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Easterseals has strongly
15 advocated for essential services and support for individuals
16 with disabilities and diverse needs; in 1931, the organization
17 authored a "Bill of Rights" for children with disabilities,
18 which led to government-funded disability services; the
19 organization's successful "seals" campaign increased public
20 awareness and support; prior to the passing of the Americans
21 with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, Easterseals was a
22 leading advocate and actively lobbied in Washington and across

1 the country for its adoption; and

2 WHEREAS, Easterseals has grown from its humble beginnings
3 to become a leading national network of more than 70
4 community-based nonprofit organizations that delivers
5 high-quality, local services and support to help more than 1.75
6 million children and adults with disabilities and their
7 caregivers and families achieve milestones, live
8 independently, and fully participate in their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is well served by four
10 Easterseals affiliate organizations with 22 locations across
11 the State; these affiliate organizations are Easterseals
12 Central Illinois, Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley,
13 Easterseals Joliet Region, and Easterseals serving Chicagoland
14 and Rockford; and

15 WHEREAS, Easterseals is a strong partner with local, state,
16 and federal government, corporations, foundations, and other
17 sectors to provide or connect individuals and families to early
18 intervention and childhood education services, autism spectrum
19 disorder services, employment assistance and placement, mental
20 health services, respite, camping and recreation, and
21 caregiving and aging supports; and

22 WHEREAS, Easterseals and its affiliates in Illinois have

1 had an impact on the lives of millions of Illinoisans for the
2 past 100 years; its commitment to expanding possibilities for
3 children and adults with disabilities ensure than everyone of
4 us can live, learn, work, and play in our communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Easterseals continues the mission and commitment
6 to service envisioned by its founder, who concluded that "Your
7 life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what
8 we give"; and

9 WHEREAS, Easterseals embraces the vision that all people
10 with disabilities and their caregivers and families will be 100
11 percent included and 100 percent empowered; 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 3,
14 2019 Easterseals Day in the State of Illinois; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to Easterseals Central Illinois, Easterseals DuPage
18 and Fox Valley, Easterseals Joliet Region, and Easterseals
19 serving Chicagoland and Rockford.