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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Elise Malary, who passed away in March of 2022 at the age of 31; and

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WHEREAS, Elise Malary was born on March 29, 1990 and lived in Chicago's Andersonville and Rogers Park neighborhoods and in Evanston; and

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WHEREAS, Elise Malary was a beloved sister, friend, advocate, and community leader and was known for her fierceness, kindness, and compassion; and

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WHEREAS, Elise Malary was passionate about advancing social justice for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities, especially Trans people of color like herself, who experience hardships, rejection, stigmatization, violence, and disparities regarding access to affirming health care services, community resources, and opportunities for housing, workforce development, and employment; and

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WHEREAS, Elise Malary interned at the AIDS Foundation Chicago and worked at Equality Illinois, the Chicago Reader, and the Civil Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office; she would regularly join advocates from across

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1 Illinois to lobby state legislators in support of LGBTQ+
2 affirming legislation during annual LGBTQ+ Advocacy Days; she
3 also served for three years as a member of the Equality
4 Illinois Community Advisory Group; and

5 WHEREAS, Elise Malary traveled around the state to lift
6 LGBTQ+ Illinoisans, including several trips to Carbondale
7 where she met with LGBTQ+ youth at the Rainbow Café LGBTQ
8 Center (the Center); additionally, on October 8, 2017, she was
9 the keynote speaker at the Center's gala, and her remarks
10 continue to inspire and offer hope to those who attended the
11 event; and

12 WHEREAS, Elise Malary was a founding member of the Chicago
13 Therapy Collective (the Collective), the mission of which is
14 to promote city-wide accountability and action to alleviate
15 LGBTQ+ health disparities and advance collective LGBTQ+ health
16 and well-being through education, therapy, advocacy, and the
17 arts; she helped coordinate the Collective's annual
18 Transgender Day of Resilience and Transgender Day of
19 Visibility events and was a leader on the #HireTransNOW
20 initiative to reduce anti-Trans hiring stigma and create
21 pipelines to Trans-affirming jobs; and

22 WHEREAS, Elise Malary was known to many through her
23 activism; in 2019, when anti-Trans stickers were placed at the

1 Women and Children First Bookstore in Andersonville, she
2 helped organize a community rally and chalking of the sidewalk
3 outside the bookstore with messages of hope and affirmation
4 for Trans people; and

5 WHEREAS, Iggy V. Ladden, founder of the Chicago Therapy
6 Collective, said "Elise Malarly faced hardness and chose
7 kindness; Elise faced cruelty and chose softness, love, and
8 joy; she chose giving people the benefit of the doubt; she
9 looked for the good in them; she chose compassion and she chose
10 time and time again to lift others up"; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Elise Malarly, a fierce and compassionate advocate with a
14 commitment to Black and Trans liberation, and extend our
15 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and the community
16 that knew and loved her; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Elise Malarly and to the Chicago
19 Therapy Collective as an expression of our deepest sympathy.