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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) is named after Juan Antonio Corretjer, the celebrated Puerto Rican national poet laureate and one of the most significant political theorists of the 20th century; and

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WHEREAS, The PRCC was established within the historical context of the building of communities of resistance and was initiated, following the Spanish conquest of Puerto Rico, by Taino forebearers, runaway African slaves, and marginalized populations, such as the Moors and Sephardic Jews; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout the Caribbean and in Latin America, this practice was conducted in the hinterlands, in the mountains, and in other marginal geographical areas by the people who were known as cimarrones; and

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WHEREAS, These Maroon societies became a place where people gathered to address the critical problems confronting them, a place where they recovered a sense of their history, and a place where they created a syncretic cultural production, such as music, poetry, and performances; and

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WHEREAS, In that tradition, the PRCC carries out a process of conscientization, informed by the principles of

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1 self-determination, self-actualization, and self-reliance,
2 meaning that it educates, organizes, and struggles for social,
3 economic, and political empowerment of Puerto Ricans within a
4 context, which is holistic in nature and organic in form; and

5 WHEREAS, All of the PRCC's programs constitute an
6 umbrella, meeting the needs of the community, which at the
7 same time encourages participants to think critically about
8 their reality and promotes an ethics of social responsibility
9 framed by the motto "live and help to live"; and

10 WHEREAS, These programs address diverse issues that
11 include wellness, social, educational, cultural, and quality
12 of life matters for Puerto Rican/Latino and other marginalized
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, The programs address HIV/AIDS, education,
15 literacy, housing, homophobia, substance abuse, gang violence,
16 teen pregnancy, police brutality, racism, economic and
17 community development, human rights violations, and the
18 devastation created by generational and historical trauma
19 through the work of the four pillars of initiatives, which are
20 public health, housing, economic development, and education;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The PRCC promotes the principles of

1 self-actualization, self-determination, and self-reliance for
2 the Puerto Rican/Latino community through the study, recovery,
3 and celebration of Puerto Rican culture; these efforts are
4 devotedly undertaken through programs and annual events, such
5 as The Three Kings Day celebration, the Casita de Don Pedro
6 project, the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade, Fiesta Boricua,
7 Haunted Paseo Boricua, the Community as a Campus Initiative,
8 the Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness, El Rescate
9 Transitional Living Space for LGBTQ+ Youth, the Lisa Isadora
10 Cruz Transgender Empowerment Center, the Nancy Franco
11 Maldonado Paseo Boricua Arts Building, the Consuelo Lee
12 Corretjer Child Care Center, as well as mural projects and
13 other initiatives; and

14 WHEREAS, Along with the National Boricua Human Rights
15 Network, the PRCC has also played a key role in human rights
16 campaigns, including the defense of political prisoners, the
17 struggle for peace in Vieques, the defense of undocumented
18 immigrants, and the fight against the criminalization of
19 youth; and

20 WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, the work of the PRCC has
21 been formed by a socio-ecological model, which recognizes the
22 interplay among key factors, including social justice,
23 community and institutional building, policy, advocacy,
24 environmental justice, education, housing, and access to

1 equitable health care; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare Labor Day
4 weekend 2023 as "Puerto Rican Cultural Center Weekend" in the
5 State of Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the PRCC as a symbol of our respect and esteem.