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LRB095 12234 KXB 36628 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The fight against Terrorism requires the United States to place high priority on the security of our borders; and

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WHEREAS, The drafters of the United States Constitution emphasized their commitment to the principles of justice, respect for life and dignity, and fair legal proceedings; and

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WHEREAS, One of these principles is Habeas Corpus, the legal proceeding that allows prisoners to challenge the legality of their detention; and

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WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson described the Writ of Habeas Corpus as one of the most essential components of a free nation; and

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WHEREAS, Nearly 400 men are currently held without charge at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay without a right to Habeas Corpus; and

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WHEREAS, It is contrary to the principles of justice embodied in the Constitution to hold individuals without charge, for an indefinite amount of time, without access to fair trial and right to Habeas Corpus; and

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1           WHEREAS, Not allowing individuals in Guantanamo to  
2 challenge the legality and conditions of their detention has  
3 undermined the moral authority of the United States as a  
4 champion of the rule of law and human rights; and

5           WHEREAS, It is therefore just that the United States  
6 Congress restore Habeas Corpus and respect international law;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, It is only fitting for the great State of Illinois  
9 as a member of the United States to call on Congress to  
10 implement justice, respect for human rights, respect for human  
11 dignity, and fair legal proceedings and restore Habeas Corpus  
12 to non-citizens who have been labeled unlawful enemy  
13 combatants; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call on Congress to  
16 restore habeas corpus for anyone in United States custody, and  
17 in so doing restore United States moral authority as a leading  
18 proponent of human rights and the rule of law; and be it  
19 further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 delivered to the Human Rights Watch.