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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of Illinois has as
3 goals the elimination of poverty and of inequality; and

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil
5 Rights Act of 1968, as amended, enunciates a national policy of
6 Fair Housing without regard to race, color, religion, national
7 origin, sex, familial status, and handicap, and encourages fair
8 housing opportunities for all citizens; and

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10 WHEREAS, The Illinois Human Rights Act further safeguards
11 the rights of all citizens of this State to freedom from
12 housing discrimination due to race, color, religion, sex,
13 national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or
14 mental handicap, military status, sexual orientation, or
15 unfavorable discharge from military service in connection with
16 employment, real estate transactions, access to financial
credit, and the availability of public accommodations; and

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18 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the State of Illinois to
19 establish Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action in all of
20 its decisions, programs and activities and to eliminate the
effects of past discrimination; and

21

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois' Annual Housing Plan

1 identifies fair housing as a principal goal; and

2 WHEREAS, The U.S. Fair Housing Act calls for affirmative
3 action to further equal access to housing opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, Provisions to affirmatively further fair housing
5 are principal and long-standing components of the United States
6 Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the
7 Community Development Block Grant program, and require that
8 recipients, including the State of Illinois, certify that they
9 conduct an analysis of impediments to fair housing and
10 affirmatively further fair housing; and

11 WHEREAS, In spite of modest progress, segregation in
12 housing, due in large measure to ongoing discrimination, is
13 well-documented in the Chicago region and throughout Illinois,
14 and research finds that opportunities to access the Chicago
15 regional housing market varies for different racial and
16 minority groups, including those with disabilities; and

17 WHEREAS, Other problems of poverty and inequality that the
18 State wishes to ameliorate are exacerbated or reinforced by
19 existing patterns of segregation; and

20 WHEREAS, Illegal barriers to equal opportunity in housing,
21 no matter how subtle, that diminish the rights of some of our

1 citizens diminish the rights of all of our citizens; therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that in the pursuit of the
5 goal and responsibility of providing fair and equal housing
6 opportunities for all, the State of Illinois, in all housing,
7 community development, and economic development grants and
8 programs, shall promote fair housing, enforce fair housing
9 laws, and apply an affirmative standard to ensure compliance
10 with State and federal requirements; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That members of the Illinois Senate are urged to
12 attend and participate in public hearings on the subject of
13 fair and equal housing opportunity; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That local stakeholders, including governmental
15 officials, community-based organizations, and fair housing
16 organizations, are encouraged to attend the hearings; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate Committee on Housing and
19 Community Affairs shall prepare and deliver a report of
20 findings and recommendations to affirmatively further State
21 programs based on information collected at the public hearings
22 to the Illinois Senate and to the Governor no later than

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1 February 1, 2008.