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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Ryan Harris was 11 years old when she went for a bike ride in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago; she had just finished her household chores; and

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WHEREAS, Ryan was taken to a nearby public lot, where she was brutally beaten and assaulted by a known sexual predator on July 28, 1998; her lifeless body was found after a community search; her killer was eventually convicted and received a life sentence; and

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WHEREAS, To raise awareness for children's safety, Ryan's mother, Sabrina Harris, holds an annual picnic for children in that park, which has since been cleaned up and named for her daughter; and

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WHEREAS, Homicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among 10-24 year olds in Illinois; violence is the leading cause of non-fatal injury among youth; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has the highest youth violence and homicide rate in the Midwest and the 4th highest in the United States; it is of crucial importance to raise awareness of this issue; and

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1 WHEREAS, The physical, mental, and emotional effects of
2 physical assault on children and the members of the community
3 in which they live can be incredibly damaging; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate July 26 -
6 August 1, 2010 as "Ryan Harris: Hope for Children Week" in the
7 State of Illinois to raise awareness of the need for youth
8 violence prevention; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Sabrina Harris as a symbol of our support and
11 respect for her.