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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On April 19, 2014, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association celebrated its 25th year representing the nearly 2,500 thoroughbred horse owners and trainers who work at Arlington International Racecourse and Hawthorne Race Course; and

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association support directly or indirectly, through their investments and work in Illinois horse racing, tens of thousands of additional jobs statewide, including backstretch workers, breeders, veterinarians, blacksmiths, and feed and hay suppliers - an investment with an estimated value of more than \$250 million annually; and

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WHEREAS, Through its benevolent arm, the Chicago Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation, Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has provided more than 150 scholarships to the college-bound children of backstretch workers - workers who are responsible for grooming, maintaining, and caring for the horses; the Chicago Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation supports athletic activities for the children of these workers, who, together with their families, reside on the backstretch; the Chicago Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation also provides financial assistance for healthcare and other expenses of

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1 backstretch workers; and

2       WHEREAS, Through its horse retirement program, "Galloping  
3 Out", the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association works  
4 to facilitate the adoption of retired thoroughbred race horses  
5 by families across Illinois and in other states; Galloping Out  
6 provides funding for the care, rehabilitation, and retraining  
7 of these horses; once adopted, these horses work with children  
8 with developmental disabilities or participate in trail  
9 riding, jumping, polo, or other recreational activities; in  
10 2014, Galloping Out will re-home its 100th retired thoroughbred  
11 horse; and

12       WHEREAS, Throughout its 25-year tenure, the Illinois  
13 Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has advocated for policies  
14 that increase breeder awards and otherwise strengthen and grow  
15 our State's thoroughbred breeding program; and

16       WHEREAS, The Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association  
17 advocates for a strict and consistently enforced drug-testing  
18 program that is imperative for preserving public confidence in  
19 horse racing while also protecting the welfare of the horses,  
20 jockeys, and other participants in the Illinois horse racing  
21 industry; in that regard, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's  
22 Association took a leading role in advocating for our State's  
23 adoption of a national uniform medication and drug testing

1 policy that, once fully implemented, will position Illinois  
2 with other states in helping to make medication rules uniform  
3 across the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Even as the horse racing industry nationwide has  
5 contracted in recent years, and even as Illinois horse racing  
6 faces significant challenges in competing against horse racing  
7 in other states, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's  
8 Association has devoted itself to advocating for policies that  
9 enhance Illinois horse racing and protect the best interests of  
10 Illinois horsemen, along with the tens of thousands of jobs  
11 that they support; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month  
14 of August 2014 as ITHA Month in the State of Illinois in honor  
15 of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's 25th  
16 anniversary and for its charitable activities and advocacy on  
17 behalf of horsemen working at Arlington International  
18 Racecourse and Hawthorne Race Course; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the leadership of the Illinois Thoroughbred  
21 Horsemen's Association.