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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized as Foster Care Month, both here in the State of Illinois and across the country; and

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WHEREAS, Foster Care Month celebrates the lives of the brave children who have, through no fault of their own, been left without a suitable home; and

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WHEREAS, There are currently more than 16,000 foster children under the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; and

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WHEREAS, The children in the foster care system have endured difficult circumstances throughout their young lives; and

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WHEREAS, It is with the selfless work of a myriad benevolent individuals and organizations that the children in foster care have an opportunity to find a caring, loving home; and

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WHEREAS, The foster care workers and parents take on the truly altruistic and self-fulfilling task of providing and caring for a foster care child and bringing him or her into

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1 their lives; and

2 WHEREAS, Throughout the State, there are numerous foster  
3 care agencies that facilitate the process of connecting foster  
4 children with suitable homes and services; and

5 WHEREAS, Committed organizations like the Lutheran School  
6 Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) and the Children's Home +  
7 Aid have historically contributed to the nurturing and  
8 protection of the children of this State; and

9 WHEREAS, LSSI, which has been operating in this State since  
10 1867, offers "healing, justice, and wholeness to people and  
11 communities"; LSSI is the largest social service provider in  
12 the State; last year, the agency served 73,000 people through  
13 190 programs at 85 sites across Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, With regional offices located in Bloomington,  
15 Rockford, Chicago, and Granite City, the Children's Home + Aid  
16 has been transforming the lives of foster children and parents  
17 since 1883; in the Bloomington regional office alone, which has  
18 been working with children for over 120 years, the agency  
19 offers a wide range of services and programs; it serves  
20 annually the needs of more than 3,000 children and families in  
21 McLean County and the surrounding area; and

1           WHEREAS, It is with the robust and selfless commitment  
2           exemplified by foster care agencies and workers like these that  
3           the Illinois foster care community has an opportunity to reach  
4           the ultimate goal of bettering and empowering the lives of the  
5           children who deserve a chance to experience the familial  
6           environment that all children should be entitled to; therefore,  
7           be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9           NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
10          proclaim the week of May 3rd through May 9th of 2015 as Foster  
11          Care Worker Appreciation Week in the State of Illinois; and be  
12          it further

13          RESOLVED, That we extend our sincere thanks and  
14          appreciation on behalf of the people of this State to the  
15          thousands of Illinois foster care workers and encourage all who  
16          are willing to consider taking their part in this noble and  
17          worthy endeavor benefitting the lives of our children and youth  
18          in foster care.