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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Anencephaly is a birth defect that results in a  
3 child being born without a fully formed skull, scalp, or brain;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Anencephaly is caused by an improperly developed  
6 neural tube - the part of an embryo that develops into a  
7 child's nervous system; and

8           WHEREAS, In children with anencephaly, the neural tube  
9 fails to close during the third and fourth week of pregnancy  
10 and stops the development of the fore brain, cerebrum, skull,  
11 and scalp; and

12           WHEREAS, Some children with anencephaly may be born with a  
13 rudimentary brain stem that allows basic automatic responses;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, Babies born with anencephaly are usually blind,  
16 deaf, unconscious, and unable to feel pain; their existing  
17 nervous system allows them to breathe and respond to sound or  
18 touch but cannot gain consciousness; and

19           WHEREAS, Almost all babies born with anencephaly will die  
20 shortly after birth; and

1           WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
2 estimate that each year, about one in every 4,859 children in  
3 the United States will be born with anencephaly; and

4           WHEREAS, Anencephaly is part of the neural tube defect  
5 classification of disorders along with spina bifida; and

6           WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for anencephaly and its  
7 exact causes and risk factors are still unknown; and

8           WHEREAS, Some research suggests that increased ingestion  
9 of folic acid early during pregnancy may reduce the risk of  
10 anencephaly; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the  
13 importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and  
14 early diagnosis of anencephaly; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That we designate October 10, 2015 as Anencephaly  
16 Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That we support a State, national, and global  
18 commitment to improving access to and developing new  
19 treatments, diagnostics, and cures for anencephaly.