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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States of America has been a member of the United Nations since the adoption of the United Nations Charter in October of 1945; and

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WHEREAS, Over the years, the United Nations and its members have adopted various resolutions, implemented international agreements, and engaged in policy commitments regarding violence against women and girls and gender discrimination and inequality; and

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WHEREAS, In December of 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women which affirmed human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world while establishing an agenda to end all forms of discrimination against women; and

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WHEREAS, By accepting and ratifying the Convention, Member States commit to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women, including the incorporation of the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system and abolishing all laws which discriminate against women; and

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1 WHEREAS, The United States was one of the 99 signatories to
2 the Convention; however, the United States is one of only 2
3 signatories which have not yet ratified the Convention; and

4 WHEREAS, In September of 1995, the Beijing Declaration and
5 Platform for Action was adopted unanimously at the Fourth World
6 Conference on Women; and

7 WHEREAS, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is
8 an agenda for women's empowerment aimed at removing all
9 obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of
10 public and private life through a full and equal share in
11 economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making; and

12 WHEREAS, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
13 provides progressive road maps for gender equality and
14 identifies specific actions for governments to take to prevent
15 and respond to violence against women and girls; and

16 WHEREAS, At the United Nations Millennium Summit in
17 September of 2000, promoting gender equality and empowering
18 women was set as one of the Millennium Development Goals, with
19 a target of eliminating gender disparity in all levels of
20 education by 2015; and

21 WHEREAS, September of 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of

1 the Beijing Declaration, as well as the deadline to adopt a
2 post-2015 agenda with new sustainable development goals,
3 including goals on gender equality; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Report on the Implementation of
5 the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action declares that
6 the United States strongly supports a stand-alone goal on
7 gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment in the
8 post-2015 development goals; and

9 WHEREAS, The United Nations Summit for the adoption of the
10 post-2015 development agenda will be held on September 25-27,
11 2015; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the hard
14 work and effort put forth by all parties assisting with the
15 adoption of the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development by
16 the United Nations; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we support a stand-alone goal in the
18 post-2015 development agenda on gender equality, women's
19 rights, and women's empowerment; a goal that is grounded in
20 human rights and tackles unequal power relations; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That we support goals that address violence
2 against women, the need to expand women's choices and equal
3 opportunities, and the need to ensure that all women have a
4 voice within households and in public and private
5 decision-making; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we, as elected representatives of the
7 people, respectfully but emphatically urge the United States to
8 participate in the Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up For Gender
9 Equality Campaign through the following actions: (1) by
10 committing to promote gender equality through the
11 implementation of new and strengthening of existing laws; (2)
12 the establishment of national action plans, strategies, and
13 policies; (3) enhancing women's leadership and participation
14 at all levels of decision-making; (4) confronting and
15 addressing social norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender
16 inequality, discrimination, and violence against women and
17 girls; (5) investing in gender equality at all levels; and (6)
18 launching public mobilization and national awareness campaigns
19 to promote gender equality; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Senate to ratify
21 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
22 Discrimination Against Women to further the commitment to
23 gender equality; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 presented to United States President Barack Obama, United
3 States Secretary of State John Kerry, and the members of the
4 Illinois congressional delegation.