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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, September 15 through October 15 marks National  
3 Hispanic Heritage Month; and

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WHEREAS, Our State's hospitals and surgery centers rely on  
5 a continual safe supply of 100% donated blood; and

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WHEREAS, Although Latinos make up 17% of the general  
7 population nationwide, they make up less than 4% of blood  
8 donors; and

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10 WHEREAS, The Latino population has a high percentage of  
11 type O blood, which is in high demand since it can be  
12 transfused to patients with other blood types; Latino blood  
13 also contains important antibodies, unique to the Latino  
14 population, making their donations especially vital to other  
15 Latinos in need of an exact antigen match for a transfusion;  
and

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17 WHEREAS, A single unit of blood can save up to 3 lives,  
18 while a single trauma patient can use over 100 units of blood;  
and

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WHEREAS, Blood only has a shelf life of 42 days; and

1           WHEREAS, Blood centers rely heavily not only on blood  
2 donated on their premises, but on blood drives organized  
3 throughout their communities by volunteers; and

4           WHEREAS, Blood can be donated every 56 days and can improve  
5 the health of the donor by reducing excess iron and encouraging  
6 the body to produce more blood; and

7           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes the importance of  
8 blood donation through the Blood Donation Act, the Employee  
9 Blood Donation Leave Act, and the Organ Donor Leave Act;  
10 therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Latino  
13 community in the State to share its unique gift of life by  
14 donating blood; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That we further urge Latino businesses,  
16 churches, and other organizations to consider hosting a blood  
17 drive in their community and urge community colleges, colleges,  
18 universities, and trade schools to host blood drives and  
19 participate in the National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive  
20 Scholarship Challenge; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers.