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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois has welcomed, supported, and protected people of all races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities for over three centuries; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois is proud to be a very diverse State, with 13.5% immigrants, 14.5% African Americans, and the third highest concentration of American Muslims in the country; it has welcomed people of all races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities since its founding; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois upholds the values set forth in the United States Constitution by protecting all its residents no matter their faith or ethnicity; and

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WHEREAS, The national "Take on Hate" campaign on April 19, 2016 is committed to combatting violence by helping stop hate crimes and bigotry whenever and wherever it is seen; it stands for peace, acceptance, and inclusion to promote the core American values that no one should be targeted solely because of their faith or ethnicity; and

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WHEREAS, Bigotry and hate towards African Americans, Latinos, Arabs, American Sikhs, American Muslims, and other communities of color are getting worse; and

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1 WHEREAS, Positive attitudes towards African Americans,
2 Latinos, Arabs, American Sikhs, American Muslims, and other
3 communities of color, has declined; and

4 WHEREAS, There has been an increase of hate crimes and
5 violence towards African Americans, Latinos, Arabs, American
6 Sikhs, American Muslims, and other communities of color,
7 creating fearful and unstable communities; and

8 WHEREAS, The national "Take on Hate" campaign calls upon
9 all Americans to address the current climate of fear, hate, and
10 prejudice towards African Americans, Latinos, Arabs, American
11 Sikhs, American Muslims, and other communities of color by
12 elevating the voice of peace, unity, and love; and

13 WHEREAS, Public servants have an even greater
14 responsibility to speak out against discrimination,
15 xenophobia, and hatred because when the unacceptable becomes
16 the norm in our society, human rights for all are threatened;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, April 19, 2016 is a day to "Take on Hate" to
19 inspire a movement to restore our American values that all
20 Americans deserve to live free of bigotry, hate, and violence,
21 in order to build an even better United States of America; and

1 WHEREAS, The national "Take on Hate" campaign is a movement
2 that promotes positive images of African Americans, Latinos,
3 Arabs, American Sikhs, American Muslims, and other communities
4 of color; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we endorse the mission
7 of "Day to Take on Hate" on April 19, 2016 to protect all of
8 Illinois' residents, families, and communities no matter their
9 faith, nationality, or ethnicity, and that we are proud to
10 stand with all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity or
11 faith against those who preach hate and incite violence; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That we declare April 19, 2016 as "Illinois
14 Muslim Action Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater
17 Chicago as an expression of our esteem and respect.