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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Quentin Young, who passed away on March 7, 2016 at the age of 92; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young, the son of immigrants, was born on September 5, 1923; he grew up on Chicago's South Side and graduated from Hyde Park High School; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young became a knowledgeable and sought-after physician, but also a passionate advocate for public health reform, civil rights, anti-poverty initiatives, workers' rights, and health care as a human right; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young served in the United States Army during World War II; he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and earned his degree in medicine from Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young began his medical training at Cook County Hospital and returned, after a stint at Michael Reese Hospital, to become its Chairman of Medicine; and

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WHEREAS, Even as he sought to improve health care and social services in underserved areas of Chicago, Dr. Quentin

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1 Young threw himself into the fight for civil rights wherever it
2 was waged, registering African-American voters in Mississippi
3 during the Freedom Summer, marching from Selma to Montgomery in
4 1965, founding the Medical Committee for Human Rights to
5 provide health care to civil rights activists, campaign
6 volunteers, and anti-war protesters, and demonstrating for the
7 desegregation of public schools; and

8 WHEREAS, Though an accomplished physician and community
9 leader, Dr. Quentin Young never let professional ambitions
10 override an opportunity to do justice, as he was twice
11 terminated from (then re-hired to) his administrative post at
12 the Cook County Hospital as a result of disputes with its
13 governing body, including over working conditions for young
14 staff doctors; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young served as president of the
16 Chicago Board of Health and the American Public Health
17 Association and co-founded the Health and Medicine Policy
18 Research Group; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young was a lifelong advocate for
20 single-payer health care and continued to draw attention to
21 this cause into his later years, including by walking 167 miles
22 across Illinois in 2001 at the age of 77; and

1 WHEREAS, Among Dr. Quentin Young's well-known patients
2 were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chicago Mayor Harold
3 Washington, Studs Terkel, Mike Royko, Illinois Governor Pat
4 Quinn, and President Barack Obama; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young's family members were partners
6 with him in his activism, as he frequently took his five
7 children with him to demonstrations and was accompanied by his
8 wife Ruth on his march for universal health care; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Quentin Young is lovingly remembered as a
10 passionate, inspirational, energetic, and generous man whose
11 legacy is a credit to Hyde Park, Chicago, and Illinois;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
15 family and friends, mourn the passing of Dr. Quentin Young; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Dr. Quentin Young as an expression
19 of our sympathy.