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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Poverty knows no geographical, ethnic, religious, or political boundaries; of the total population in Macon County, 15.7% live in poverty as documented in the 2010 Census; each person should have the opportunity to live comfortable lives, and all residents of Macon County should work toward that goal; and

WHEREAS, The Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation (DMCOC) has been providing valuable services to the elderly and disadvantaged in Decatur and Macon County for over 53 years; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the DMCOC is to prepare people to enter the economic mainstream of society by providing the skills, opportunities, advocacy, and services needed to become self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, The DMCOC has provided programs and services to the low-income and elderly populations of Decatur and Macon County since its inception in 1964 as a community-based organization to address the "war on poverty"; it was formed as a combined effort of interested political officials, social service agencies, the Decatur City Council, the Macon County Board, low-income individuals, and community residents under

- 1 the jurisdiction of the Economic Opportunity Act, which was
- 2 signed into law on August 20, 1964 by President Lyndon B.
- 3 Johnson; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 2016, the DMCOC served a total of 6,403
- 5 individuals with 444 being children in the Head Start program,
- 6 and 1,988 seniors being served meals through the Senior
- 7 Nutrition program; and
- 8 WHEREAS, The fight against poverty should be a priority of
- 9 all Americans so that all may enjoy liberty and freedom;
- 10 therefore, be it
- 11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
- 12 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
- declare May of 2017 to be Community Action Awareness Month in
- 14 the State of Illinois to commemorate the 53rd Anniversary of
- 15 the Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation; and be it
- 16 further
- 17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
- 18 $\,$ presented to the DMCOC as an expression of our esteem and
- 19 respect.