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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In the United States, one in six children aged
3 three through 17, approximately 15 percent, have a
4 developmental disability; and

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WHEREAS, Individuals with developmental disabilities are
6 our family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and
7 important contributors to the diversity of our communities and
8 the State; and

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WHEREAS, When individuals with developmental disabilities
10 are included and active in their communities, they live longer,
11 healthier, and more fulfilling lives; and

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WHEREAS, People with developmental disabilities in
13 Illinois want to achieve personal success through education,
14 meaningful work, and family and community ties, and we
15 recognize that every person, regardless of ability, has
16 valuable strengths, an infinite capacity to learn, and the
17 potential to make important contributions to their local
18 community; and

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WHEREAS, In 1987, President Reagan made a public
20 proclamation that the month of March should be recognized as
21 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to "increase public

1 awareness of the needs and potential of Americans with
2 developmental disabilities"; and

3 WHEREAS, The purpose of Developmental Disabilities
4 Awareness Month is to raise awareness about the inclusion of
5 people with developmental disabilities in all areas of
6 community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that
7 people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting
8 with the communities in which they live; and

9 WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a
10 time to recognize the contributions of Illinoisans with
11 developmental disabilities and the State's efforts to identify
12 and remove barriers so all citizens of Illinois are included;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Removing these barriers for individuals with
15 developmental disabilities benefits the entire State and is a
16 part of our commitment to providing equal opportunity and
17 rights for all Illinoisans; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we declare March 2019 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness
21 Month to promote awareness and understanding of the
22 opportunities, challenges, and needs of people with

1 developmental disabilities.