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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Leah Hayes on being named
4 2018 SportsKid of the Year by Sports Illustrated Kids; and

5 WHEREAS, Leah Hayes began swimming at the age of eight; she
6 won her first state title at age nine in the 50-meter
7 breaststroke; at the age of ten, she set five national age
8 group (NAG) records over two meets; she owns six national
9 age-group records, two of which she set this year; and

10 WHEREAS, At the Illinois Long Course Age Group
11 Championships, Leah Hayes broke the 200-meter freestyle NAG for
12 ages ten and under by more than a second; a day later, she took
13 the 50 free record; the next week, at the Central Mega Zone 14
14 & Under Championships, she set marks in the 100-meter
15 freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke, and 200-meter individual
16 medley (IM); the latter record had stood for 13 years; and

17 WHEREAS, In August, at a USA Swimming Futures Championship,
18 Leah Hayes competed in a field that included 20 and 21-year-old
19 collegiate swimmers, and she won the 200-meter IM; her next
20 goal is the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo; two months after the Games,
21 she will turn 15; and

1 WHEREAS, Leah Hayes competes with respect; she
2 congratulates each swimmer after a race and gives trophies or
3 ribbons to friends and fellow competitors; and

4 WHEREAS, There was a time when Leah Hayes was not so
5 confident; when she was six, she began losing her hair and was
6 diagnosed with alopecia universalis; after struggling with its
7 effects for several years, she now embraces her look and uses
8 her success in the pool to spread the message, "Don't let
9 anything hold you back"; and

10 WHEREAS, Leah Hayes lives in Sugar Grove, where she enjoys
11 spending time with her friends and binge-watching Netflix; she
12 is a devoted patron of Chipotle; her ability to win races makes
13 her a great swimmer; her ability to do it with grace and
14 positivity makes her a great role model; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Leah Hayes on being named 2018 SportsKid of the
18 Year by Sports Illustrated Kids and wish her success in all of
19 her future endeavors; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Leah Hayes as an expression of our esteem and
22 respect.