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LRB101 23453 LAW 74765 r

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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 Harav Hagaon Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz of Chicago, who passed away on December 9, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz was born to Avrohom and Pearl (Scher) Schwartz of the Clinton Hill neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey on January 24, 1925; at the age of 17, he attended the Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), in New York City, New York; he was later ordained as a rabbi and studied the first Kollel at RIETS; he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by Yeshiva University in 1990; he was honored with the Harav Yosef Dov Halevi Soloveitchik, Joseph B. Soloveitchik Aluf Torah Award, at Yeshiva University's Chag Ha'semicha convocation in 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz enjoyed an illustrious career as a synagogue rabbi in several locations, including Providence, Rhode Island, Englishtown, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Brooklyn, New York; he concomitantly served on various regional rabbinical bodies, kosher supervision bodies, and rabbinical courts; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz was brought to Chicago in 1986 to

1 become the Av Beit Din, Chief Rabbinical Judge and Adjudicator,
2 of the Chicago Rabbinical Council (cRc); during his tenure of
3 over 30 years as Av Beit Din and eventually Rosh Beit Din, he
4 oversaw the cRc's growth and development into an
5 internationally recognized leader in Jewish law, global kosher
6 supervision, and community leadership; and

7 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz also served the community in a
8 multitude of positions; he was appointed as Av Beth Din of the
9 Rabbinical Council of America's Beth Din of America in 1991; he
10 served as editor of the HaDarom Journal; he was a leading voice
11 for organizations, including the Religious Zionists of Chicago
12 and Hatzalah; and

13 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz was a brilliant scholar of Jewish
14 texts and was erudite in all areas of study; he made a lifelong
15 commitment to child and adult education as well as to his own
16 lifelong pursuit of study; and

17 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz steadfastly defended the integrity
18 of traditional Jewish law and traditions, while engendering
19 peace and unity throughout the community; he was devoted to
20 mentoring and supporting younger rabbinic colleagues, engaging
21 every individual with warmth and humility, and helping the
22 oppressed with sympathy, righteousness, and dignity; and

1 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz was a proud American citizen, a
2 supporter of local police departments and elected officials,
3 and particularly supportive of military chaplains who served in
4 the U.S. Armed Forces; and

5 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz was preceded in death by his first
6 wife, Rebbetzin Risya (Shoshana) Poupko; and

7 WHEREAS, Rabbi Schwartz is survived by his wife, Rebbetzin
8 Chana Sarah; his son, Avrohom Yeshaye (Sally) Schwartz; his
9 daughter, Rivka Leah (the late Rabbi Yehoshua) Goldman; his
10 son, Chaim Yehoshua Heschel (Shani) Schwartz; his
11 grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Harav Hagaon Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz and extend our sincere
15 condolences to his family, friends, the Chicago Rabbinical
16 Council, and the Jewish community in the Chicago area and
17 around the world who knew and revered him; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Rabbi Schwartz as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.