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LRB103 31941 MST 60670 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Survivors Speak Illinois is organized by Crime  
Survivors for Safety and Justice and the Alliance for Safety  
and Justice; and

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WHEREAS, Crime and violence can harm any individual and  
community, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed,  
religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic  
status; and

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WHEREAS, Most crime survivors do not receive the help they  
need; and

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WHEREAS, Only nine percent of all victims of violence  
receive direct assistance from a victim service agency; this  
drops further when the crime is unreported, which is the case  
for more than half of all violent crimes; and

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WHEREAS, Despite the fact that we have built our criminal  
justice in the name of victims, it is simply not designed or  
currently equipped to serve them or address most of their  
needs; this experience compounds the trauma that comes with  
victimization and is particularly severe for many victims of  
color, particularly Black victims; and

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1           WHEREAS, Through their experiences, crime survivors are  
2 uniquely qualified to provide essential input and influence in  
3 discussions of public safety and criminal justice policy; and

4           WHEREAS, Illinois must address the immediate safety  
5 concerns facing families and invest in a long-term,  
6 comprehensive plan to address root causes of violence; and

7           WHEREAS, The voices and experiences of survivors are too  
8 often ignored, leading to poor policy and justice system  
9 decisions that fail to meet the needs of survivors or stop the  
10 cycle of crime; and

11           WHEREAS, State support for trauma recovery centers that  
12 play a critical role and provide critical resources for  
13 survivors impacted by crime is necessary; and

14           WHEREAS, Crime survivors understand existing gaps to  
15 recovery and how to bridge them; and

16           WHEREAS, Survivors want a system of justice and safety  
17 that prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and trauma  
18 recovery; and

19           WHEREAS, Illinois needs to invest in programs that provide  
20 assistance to crime victims and their families to effectively

1 deal with the inherent trauma and residual effects of  
2 violence; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we declare April 20, 2023 as "Survivors Speak Illinois Day";  
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we commend the survivors and advocates of  
8 Survivors Speak Illinois for their work to stop violence and  
9 help those impacted by it; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Survivors Speak Illinois as a symbol of our  
12 respect and esteem.