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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois State Senator Michael Frerichs has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 52nd Senate District since 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs grew up in Gifford, a small farming community in Champaign County; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs graduated from Rantoul Township High School and Yale University; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs moved to Taiwan and studied Chinese at the National Cheng Kung University while teaching English; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs taught at Rantoul Township High School while serving his community as a volunteer firefighter; he also served on the board of a local non-profit nursing home and was an active member of the Rotary Club of Urbana; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs was twice elected to the Champaign County Board, where he fought against wasteful spending and was recognized for his independent voice; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs served as the Champaign County

1 Auditor, where he established a reputation as a financial
2 watchdog, receiving awards for his transparent financial
3 reporting; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs has been an innovative leader in
5 the Illinois Senate, highlighted by his passage of the 2007 law
6 authorizing stem cell research in Illinois, further elevating
7 the State as a national leader in promoting critical medical
8 research to alleviate medical conditions such as Parkinson's
9 Disease, juvenile diabetes, and different forms of cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs is a strong advocate for
11 government transparency and has worked to end "pay to play"
12 politics in State government; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs voted to impeach former Governor
14 Blagojevich and made a motion to disqualify him from ever
15 holding public office in Illinois again; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs led efforts to abolish the
17 General Assembly tuition waiver program due to the struggles
18 Illinois colleges and universities faced as well as abuses of
19 the program; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs has the distinct honor of
21 representing the University of Illinois as the Higher Education

1 Committee Chairman; he passed an innovative law to jump start
2 Illinois' "Pay it forward, Pay it Back" pilot tuition program
3 to make college affordable for Illinois residents regardless of
4 their financial situation; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs knows the importance of the
6 agriculture industry in Illinois; growing up in a small farming
7 town gave him a solid foundation as the Chairman of the
8 Agriculture Committee to reflect on and support agriculture
9 policies for farmers across Illinois; his efforts were
10 recognized in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 by the Illinois Farm
11 Bureau by being awarded the Friend of Agriculture Award; he
12 also was awarded the 2010 Legislative Award for his outstanding
13 service to the swine industry by the Illinois Pork Producers
14 Association; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs fought to help his hometown of
16 Gifford after the November 2013 tornadoes; he led the charge to
17 introduce legislation to help business owners recover from
18 natural disasters in Illinois by providing them with property
19 tax relief and working closely with State agencies to secure
20 close to \$1 million to help rebuild and repair the Village of
21 Gifford and Compromise Township; he will continue to work with
22 local stakeholders to ensure the residents of Gifford are given
23 the necessary resources to be successful in their efforts; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs understands the importance of
2 advocating for a strong local economy and has been an advocate
3 of promoting job creation across Illinois in a number of ways,
4 including his leadership as co-chair of the bipartisan Senate
5 Special Committee on Enterprise Zone Extensions that has
6 traveled the State to gather input on proposed legislation to
7 modernize and extend the Enterprise Zone Program; in
8 recognition of his efforts, the Illinois Enterprise Zone
9 Association presented Senator Frerichs with the 2012
10 Legislative Achievement Award; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs understands our returning heroes
12 have risked their lives for our nation and we should do what we
13 can to recognize them for their service; in 2008, he passed a
14 law to allow Vietnam veterans to receive their high school
15 diplomas, which helped many Vietnam Veterans who were drafted
16 before they could finish high school; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs worked for years to pass fracking
18 legislation that would protect the environment and allow us to
19 take advantage of various economic opportunities by
20 implementing the toughest fracking regulations in the nation;
21 to honor his work and service to the environment the Illinois
22 Environmental Council (IEC) presented Senator Frerichs with
23 the IEC's Environmental Leadership Award; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs has worked for years to give
2 legal voters every opportunity possible to go out and practice
3 their civic duty; he sponsored a law to require election
4 authorities to conduct grace period registration, grace period
5 voting, and early voting at public universities, colleges and
6 community colleges in Illinois to make voting more accessible
7 to college students who wish to vote, but are unable to do so
8 due to lack of transportation or busy school schedules; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs, as the co-chairman of the
10 bipartisan Commission on Government Forecasting and
11 Accountability (COGFA), helped resolve a dispute over the
12 bidding process for State employee health insurance contracts
13 and continues to serve as a voice for downstate employees
14 worried about their benefits; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs is the first Democrat from
16 Champaign County elected to any Statewide constitutional
17 office; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Frerichs is the father of his loving and
19 wonderful daughter Ella Frerichs; he will be dearly missed by
20 all in this chamber; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank State Senator

1 Michael Frerichs for his dedicated service to the people of
2 Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Senator Frerichs with our best wishes for him as
5 he prepares to serve Illinois as our next State Treasurer.