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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Toi W. Hutchinson began her career in the Illinois Senate in 2009 and has proudly and admirably represented the families of Cook, Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties, an area often cited as a microcosm of Illinois as a whole due to its racial, geographic, and economic diversity; and

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WHEREAS, Born in Tennessee, Senator Hutchinson and her family moved to Chicago's south suburbs, where, as a child, she attended Infant Jesus of Prague School in Flossmoor and Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law; she graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Executive Management Program and is a 2012 Edgar Fellow of the Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson entered public service in 2002, when she began two terms as Village Clerk of Olympia Fields; she was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in January of 2009; and

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WHEREAS, As Chair of the Senate Revenue Committee, Senator

1 Hutchinson often found herself at the center of some of the
2 most pressing fiscal and economic issues facing Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, In her role as Chair, Senator Hutchinson led in
4 the passage of a difficult but necessary income tax increase
5 that stabilized Illinois' finances after years of devastating
6 budget woes, passed legislation increasing the Earned Income
7 Tax Credit (EITC) and the standard tax exemption, allowing
8 working families to keep more of their hard-earned money, and
9 worked to close corporate tax loopholes to ensure large
10 corporations paid their fair share in taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, During her time in the Senate, Senator Hutchinson
12 passed numerous new laws aimed at protecting women, children,
13 seniors, and Illinoisans with disabilities, including leading
14 the effort to safeguard pregnant women in the workplace from
15 discrimination; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson teamed with former Attorney
17 General Lisa Madigan to make Illinois the first state that
18 mandates all rape kits be tested within ten days and worked on
19 numerous measures ensuring victims of sex trafficking and
20 stalking have the resources they need to recover and return to
21 society; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson led a crackdown on the culture

1 of sexual harassment in state government, passing legislation
2 to require members of the General Assembly, as well as
3 legislative staff and lobbyists, to participate in sexual
4 harassment awareness training; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson recognized the importance of
6 transportation development for the communities she served and
7 passed a law creating the Southeast Commuter Rail Transit
8 District, which will eventually construct a new Metra line
9 connecting eleven South Suburban communities with downtown
10 Chicago, as well as creating the first public-private financing
11 agreement in Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, As a proud mother of public school students
13 concerned about the increasing number of students, especially
14 African American boys, who receive severe disciplinary action
15 that keeps them out of the classroom, Senator Hutchinson passed
16 a law to study the problem and work with school districts to
17 reduce expulsions and suspensions; and

18 WHEREAS, One of Senator Hutchinson's hardest and most
19 high-profile successes while in the Senate was working with her
20 colleagues on the passage of cannabis legalization legislation
21 that prioritizes social equity, which complemented Senator
22 Hutchinson's legislation allowing a legal cannabis business to
23 use the banking system in Illinois and the creation of the

1 Industrial Hemp Act, allowing farmers in Illinois to cultivate
2 and process industrial hemp; and

3 WHEREAS, A fierce proponent of a tax system that allows
4 working families to thrive, Senator Hutchinson passed
5 legislation to create a graduated rate structure for Illinois'
6 income tax system, with lower-income families paying less while
7 wealthier individuals would pay more; specifically,
8 Illinoisans making less than \$250,000 per year, which
9 represents 97 percent of taxpayers, would pay the same or less
10 in income taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson passed legislation increasing
12 stability and funding for Illinois families who rely on the
13 Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) by extending the
14 redetermination period for eligibility from six months to 12
15 months and passed legislation protecting CCAP recipients by
16 removing the executive branch's ability to unilaterally reduce
17 eligibility through stringent requirements; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson recently ended her one-year
19 leadership of the National Conference of State Legislatures
20 (NCSL), a bipartisan non-governmental organization that serves
21 thousands of state lawmakers and staffers, during which
22 Hutchinson traveled across the globe, connected with leaders
23 from all walks of life, and shared with them the information

1 and resources to better serve the common good; and

2 WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure in the Illinois Senate,
3 Senator Hutchinson's leadership and dedication earned her a
4 number of accolades; in 2011, she received the Governors State
5 University Annuitants Association Award "in appreciation of
6 her leadership and advocacy on behalf of her constituents"; in
7 2013, she earned the Moxie Award from the Illinois Coalition
8 Against Sexual Assault; in 2014, she earned the Champion Award
9 from the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Assault; in 2016, she
10 received the Legislative Champion Award from the Illinois State
11 Alliance of YMCAs, and in 2018, she received one of Governing
12 Magazine's Public Officials of the Year Awards; and

13 WHEREAS, Upon her retirement from the Illinois General
14 Assembly, Senator Hutchinson will continue to advance the
15 values of justice and equity as the Cannabis Regulation
16 Oversight Officer for the State of Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Hutchinson's most cherished role is being
18 a wife to her husband Paul and a mother to her three children,
19 Paul Jr., Camryn, and Ryan; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank State Senator
22 Toi Hutchinson for her service to the people of Illinois and

1 honor her with this resolution; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Senator Hutchinson with our best wishes for all
4 her future endeavors.