



HJ0036

LRB104 13453 LAW 25870 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2                   WHEREAS, On November 12, 1922, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority,  
3                   Inc. was founded by seven visionary educators at Butler  
4                   University, united in their mission to enhance the quality of  
5                   life for women and families through education, community  
6                   service, and civic engagement; and

7           WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s Central Region,  
8   originally established in 1925 and organized by Homer Woods of  
9   Chicago in 1940, further advanced the sorority's mission by  
10   fostering leadership, service, and sisterhood across the  
11   Midwest; and

12           WHEREAS, Across the State, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.  
13        has remained a steadfast advocate for equity in education and  
14        health care, leading impactful initiatives that address  
15        systemic disparities in mental health, academic achievement,  
16        and access to essential resources while uplifting youth,  
17        families, and historically underserved communities; and

18            WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s 21 alumnae  
19        chapters and 19 undergraduate chapters throughout Illinois  
20        reflect the sorority's deep-rooted commitment to leadership,  
21        service, and sisterhood across college campuses and local  
22        communities alike; and

1        WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s  
2 multigenerational impact is evident through its signature  
3 programs, which include Project CRADLE Care, Youth Symposium,  
4 Swim 1922, and Operation Big Book Bag, as well as its  
5 investment in the growth and development of young girls  
6 through the Rhosebuds and Rhoers clubs, instilling leadership,  
7 confidence, and civic responsibility from an early age; and

8        WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. draws strength and  
9 inspiration from distinguished leaders who have shaped the  
10 landscape of public service and community empowerment,  
11 including former State Senator Margaret Smith, Rainbow PUSH  
12 Coalition cofounder Rev. Willie T. Barrow, 13th International  
13 Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and  
14 pioneering educator Dr. Annie Lawrence Brown, who also served  
15 as the first African American president of the Illinois Nurses  
16 Association, former State Representative Sharon Markette  
17 Malone, current State Representative Debbie Meyers Martin,  
18 21st Central Region Director of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.  
19 and Executive Director of the Illinois Legislative Black  
20 Caucus Foundation Tiffany D. Hightower, former State  
21 Representative and current City Treasurer of Chicago Melissa  
22 Conyears Ervin, and former State Representative and current  
23 U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly; and

1        WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s Central Region  
2        celebrates 100 years of sisterhood, service, and excellence,  
3        of continued leadership, of unwavering advocacy, and of making  
4        a transformative impact throughout the State and beyond; and

5        WHEREAS, On May 7, 2025, members of Sigma Gamma Rho  
6        Sorority, Inc. from across Illinois will gather at the  
7        Illinois State Capitol to participate in Sigma Gamma Rho,  
8        Incorporated Day and to engage directly with lawmakers, lend  
9        their voices to the legislative process, and continue their  
10       legacy of purposeful advocacy and policy-centered service in  
11       alignment with the sorority's national mission and core  
12       values; therefore, be it

13       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14       HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15       SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare May 7, 2025 as Sigma  
16       Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated Day in the State of Illinois.