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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is an international, 3 non-for-profit corporation established in 1946; The Links 4 Foundation, Incorporated, the philanthropic arm of The Links, 5 Incorporated, has made more than \$24 million dollars in 6 charitable contributions since its founding; and

WHEREAS, The membership of Links, Incorporated consists of more than 17,000 professional women of African descent in 299 chapters across the globe; it is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry; the Central Area of The Links, Incorporated was established in 1950 and has expanded to 72 chapters in 15 states; the Illinois chapters are Central Illinois (IL) Chapter, Chicago (IL) Chapter, Gateway (IL) Chapter, Harbor Lites (IL) Chapter, Hoffman Estates (IL) Chapter, Lake Shore (IL) Chapter, North Shore (IL) Chapter, Quad Cities (IL) Chapter, South Suburban Chicago (IL) Chapter, Tri-County (IL) Chapter, Windy City (IL) Chapter, and West Towns (IL) Chapter; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is transforming communities through its voice, its vote, and its power; with

- 1 over two million service hours recorded in the past three
- 2 years, members regularly contribute more than 1,000,000
- 3 documented service hours in their respective communities
- 4 annually; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated's legislative and public
- 6 affairs priorities are considered through a lens of diversity,
- 7 equity, and inclusion; and
- 8 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is uniquely positioned to
- 9 leverage the collective strength, resources, and energy of its
- 10 members to ensure that public policy being considered is
- 11 reflective of its membership and the global community it
- 12 serves; and
- WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated will continue to monitor
- 14 and advocate on numerous public policy issues that include its
- 15 identified six priorities for the biennium, civil and voting
- 16 rights, women's health equity, equal pay, economic
- 17 empowerment, social justice and public safety, and
- 18 environmental justice and climate change; and
- 19 WHEREAS, The chapters of the Central Area of The Links,
- 20 Incorporated in the State of Illinois continue to advocate for
- 21 the above-mentioned public policy issues and have elected to
- 22 spotlight women's health equity, specifically in three areas,

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- 1 prevention of kidney disease, Black women's maternal health,
- 2 and mental health; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton,
- 4 Representative Rita Mayfield, and Representative Kimberly Du
- 5 Buclet are among the engaged members; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The Illinois chapters of The Links, Incorporated
- 7 will be holding their annual in-person Illinois Links Day at
- 8 the State Capitol on April 23, 2025; therefore, be it
- 9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
- 10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
- 11 we recognize the work of Area Director Sheila R. Brown and the
- various chapters in the Central Area and salute them on Links
- Day at the Illinois State Capitol; and be it further
- 14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
- presented to the Central Area of the Links, Incorporated as a
- 16 symbol of our respect and esteem.