



HR0867

LRB104 21749 MST 37412 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are proud to congratulate the Illinois
4 Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team on an extraordinary
5 season and its achievement of advancing to the NCAA Division I
6 Men's Basketball Tournament Final Four; and

7 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini, representing the University
8 of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, completed the season with an
9 outstanding record of 28-9 overall, including 15-5 in the Big
10 Ten and an appearance in the Final Four in the NCAA Tournament,
11 demonstrating consistency, resilience, and excellence against
12 top ranked competition; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout the NCAA Tournament, the Fighting
14 Illini delivered a series of impressive victories, including
15 wins over the University of Pennsylvania, 105-70, and VCU,
16 76-55, and then on to the Sweet Sixteen and a sweet victory
17 over Houston, 65- 55, and an Elite Eight victory over Iowa,
18 71-59, which landed the Fighting Illini a trip to the Final
19 Four, showcasing their competitive strength and ability to
20 perform under pressure on the national stage; and

21 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Fighting Illini Head
22 Coach Brad Underwood, the team exemplified a culture of

1 accountability, preparation, and teamwork, earning the respect
2 of opponents and the admiration of fans across Illinois and
3 the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, The success of the Fighting Illini program is
5 further strengthened by the leadership of Director of
6 Athletics Josh Whitman, whose vision, stewardship, and
7 commitment to excellence continue to elevate Illinois
8 athletics and support student athletes in achieving success
9 both on and off the court; and

10 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini's return to the Final Four
11 marks a historic milestone for the program, with their most
12 recent prior appearance occurring in 2005, underscoring the
13 sustained excellence and upward trajectory of Illinois men's
14 basketball; and

15 WHEREAS, The members of the Fighting Illini Men's
16 Basketball Team, including all student athletes, coaches, and
17 support staff, have demonstrated dedication, sportsmanship,
18 and academic commitment throughout the season; and

19 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini team's run to the Final Four
20 energized alumni, students, and supporters across the State,
21 reinforcing the University of Illinois System's role as a
22 unifying source of pride and a driver of community, economic,

1 and cultural vitality; and

2 WHEREAS, Advancing to the Final Four places the Fighting
3 Illini among the most elite programs in collegiate basketball
4 and marks a historic accomplishment worthy of statewide
5 recognition; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate the Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball
9 Team on a remarkable season, their 28-9 overall record, and
10 their advancement to the Final Four, and we commend their
11 dedication, achievement, and representation of the State of
12 Illinois at the highest level; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to Head Coach Brad Underwood, Director of Athletics
15 Josh Whitman, Chancellor Charles Isbell, the members of the
16 team, and the leadership of the University of Illinois
17 Urbana-Champaign as a symbol of our respect and esteem.