



1 SJ0032

2 LRB104 13298 LAW 25543 r

3 1 SENATE 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
14       ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
15       REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare May 7, 2025  
16       as Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated Day in the State of  
17       Illinois.