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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Home fires are the biggest element of the U.S. fire problem for civilians and responders; and

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WHEREAS, Eighty-six percent of all civilian structure fire deaths are in homes, and home fires cause \$8.7 billion in direct property damage each year (NFPA); and

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WHEREAS, Residential structure fires accounted for 67 percent of firefighter injuries (USFA), and firefighters are 11 times more likely to be injured fighting structure fires (NFPA); and

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WHEREAS, Home fires are deadlier today as a result of unprotected lightweight construction material, open floor plans, abundant synthetic furnishings, and emerging technology such as lithium-ion batteries, which make homes burn faster, becoming deadly in two minutes or less (UL/NIST); and

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WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration (USFA) estimates that home fire sprinklers could save thousands of lives each year if more were installed in homes; and

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WHEREAS, Fire sprinklers are a proven and cost-effective means of protecting lives and property from the threat of

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1 fire; and

2 WHEREAS, Fire sprinklers offer the highest degree of fire
3 protection and are critical in saving lives and property; and

4 WHEREAS, Fire sprinklers can control a fire, and thereby
5 the smoke, while it is still small, as a room can be engulfed
6 in flames in less than two minutes, saving the lives of
7 occupants and first responders; and

8 WHEREAS, From January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2023, a
9 span of 17 years, there have been 4,031 injuries in one and
10 two-family home fires in Illinois without a fire sprinkler
11 system and 1,072 fatalities; and

12 WHEREAS, During that same 17-year period, there have been
13 only seven injuries in one and two-family home fires in
14 Illinois with fire sprinkler systems and zero fatalities
15 (NFSA); and

16 WHEREAS, Including fire sprinklers in local building codes
17 and community risk reduction helps support fire service
18 resources, staffing, and budgets because when new housing
19 stock is sprinklered it becomes safer, improving communities
20 and allowing fire service resources to be directed to those at
21 highest risk; and

1 WHEREAS, Stronger state and federal support of home fire
2 sprinkler education will help address confusion and anti-code
3 negativity and encourage fire service advocacy of home fire
4 sprinkler installation; and

5 WHEREAS, More installation of fire sprinklers in new homes
6 will directly and indefinitely protect and improve communities
7 of every size; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the week of
10 May 11, 2025 through May 17, 2025 as Home Fire Sprinkler Week;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Erik Hoffer, Chicago IP Director for the National
14 Fire Sprinkler Association.