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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank dedicated to promoting better politics and smarter government, while preparing young people for careers in public service; and

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WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute provides internships that offer students real-world experience and knowledge in public service, as well as in their field of interest; Dr. Linda Renee Baker has served as the director of these internships for over 10 years, providing mentorship, leadership, and guidance to students pursuing careers in public service; these internships include the Alexander Lane Internship, the Barb Brown Internship, the Gene Callahan Internship, the Latino Heritage Internship, the Social Work Internship, and the Vince Demuzio Internship; interns work closely with their placement offices to aid in research, office support, and programming; and

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WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute offers a variety of scholarships annually, including the Barb Brown Memorial Scholarship, the David Yepsen Director's Award, the Edwin D. Phillips Debate Team Scholarship, the Jeanne Hurley Simon Memorial Scholarship, the Mike Lawrence Scholarship, and

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1 the Matt Baughman Scholarship to support and recognize
2 outstanding students; and

3 WHEREAS, Women's Civic Day is one of the Paul Simon Public
4 Policy Institute's annual initiatives, bringing women students
5 from Southern Illinois University to the Illinois Capitol
6 Building to promote the contributions of women legislators and
7 public sector leaders and to encourage the continued
8 development of women's leadership and involvement in public
9 affairs; and

10 WHEREAS, Women's Civic Day serves to highlight the
11 contributions of women to public service in Illinois and
12 inspire future engagement by providing students with the
13 opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, including
14 legislators, public sector leaders, and community coordinators
15 during a one-day event typically held in the spring at the
16 Illinois Capitol Building in Springfield; and

17 WHEREAS, The success of the 2025 Women's Civic Day would
18 not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Linda
19 Renee Baker and the dedication of the Paul Simon Public Policy
20 Institute's current interns and fellow, including Traseanda
21 Jones (2025 Alexander Lane Intern), Journey Short (2025 Gene
22 Callahan Intern), Brandon Varela (2025 Latino Heritage
23 Intern), Rachel Wilson (2025 Social Work Intern), and Macy

1 Sanchez (2025 Celia M. Howard Fellow), each of whom played an
2 integral role in organizing and supporting this year's
3 program; and

4 WHEREAS, The 2025 Women's Civic Day welcomed and
5 celebrated the participation of outstanding Southern Illinois
6 University students, including Lily Bishop, Cheyanne Bristol,
7 Elisa Tatiana, Myla Croft, Jayme Ferris, Jessica Hardges,
8 Amber Koterias, Jenny Leyva Castro, Autumn Montague, Nadia
9 Ogiele, Justyce Petty, Macy Sanchez, RyAnn Clark, Hannah
10 Connolly, Olivia Drew, Raylynn Elder, Audrey Gulley, and Lora
11 Judge, each of whom demonstrated a commitment to civic
12 engagement, leadership, and public service; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 19,
15 2025 as Women's Civic Day to celebrate and promote the vital
16 role of women in public service and encourage the development
17 of future women leaders in public affairs; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute as a
20 symbol of our respect and esteem.