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LRB104 19106 ECR 32551 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois relies on medicolegal professionals, including medical examiners, coroners, forensic pathologists, death investigators, forensic scientists, and essential support staff, to serve at the critical intersection of medicine, law, and public safety; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois medicolegal professionals are entrusted with the accurate and impartial investigation of deaths, the determination of cause and manner of death, and the application of scientific principles in support of the justice system; and

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WHEREAS, These professionals are routinely required to respond to death scenes, mass fatality incidents, public health emergencies, natural disasters, and acts of violence alongside law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, and other public safety personnel; and

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WHEREAS, Despite their essential on-scene and emergency response responsibilities, medicolegal professionals are not uniformly recognized as first responders, notwithstanding their exposure to hazardous environments, traumatic scenes, biohazards, and significant occupational stressors; and

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1 WHEREAS, Acknowledging medicolegal professionals as first
2 responders affirms the critical nature of their work, supports
3 parity in professional recognition and resources, and enhances
4 coordinated emergency response, responder wellness, and public
5 safety outcomes; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Association of Medical Examiners
7 (NAME) and the International Association of Coroners and
8 Medical Examiners (IACME) have each issued position statements
9 recognizing and affirming the essential role medicolegal
10 professionals play in death investigation, public health, the
11 administration of justice, and emergency response; and

12 WHEREAS, Recognizing medicolegal professionals fosters
13 public awareness of the indispensable role these professionals
14 play in protecting public health, ensuring accountability, and
15 upholding justice across the State of Illinois; therefore, be
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17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize
19 medicolegal professionals, and we thank them for their
20 invaluable service.