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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, July 4, 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary, or
3 Semiquincentennial, of the adoption of the Declaration of
4 Independence by the Second Continental Congress in 1776; and

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WHEREAS, The Semiquincentennial provides an opportunity to
6 reflect on the complex history of the United States, including
7 its founding principles, its aspirations, its contradictions,
8 and the ongoing effort to realize the promise of liberty and
9 equality for all; and

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WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence articulated
11 foundational ideals, including equality, unalienable rights,
12 and government grounded in the consent of the governed; these
13 principles have inspired civic movements, democratic
14 participation, and continued efforts toward justice throughout
15 the nation's history; and

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WHEREAS, The history of the United States includes both
17 notable achievements and profound injustices, and a full
18 commemoration of the Semiquincentennial calls for an inclusive
19 and robust examination of that history; and

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WHEREAS, What is now the State of Illinois has played a
21 significant role in the nation's development since joining the

1 Union in 1818, shaped by the contributions, cultures, labor,
2 service, and civic engagement of diverse communities across
3 the State; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois America 250 Commission seeks to
5 promote inclusive public engagement, support educational
6 initiatives, encourage civic participation, and foster
7 dialogue about the nation's past, present, and future; and

8 WHEREAS, The Semiquincentennial offers a meaningful
9 opportunity for communities across Illinois to explore local
10 histories, elevate underrepresented voices, and consider how
11 democratic principles can be strengthened for future
12 generations; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the 250th
15 anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence
16 as an opportunity for reflection, inspiration, education,
17 dialogue, and civic engagement; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage residents, cities, towns,
19 suburbs and municipalities, educational institutions, cultural
20 organizations, civic groups, tourism bureaus, and businesses
21 throughout Illinois to participate in and support activities
22 that examine our shared history accessibly and inclusively,

1 promote understanding of democratic principles, inspire the
2 exchange of ideas about this historic milestone, and
3 strengthen civic life; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we encourage and support all efforts to
5 bolster the history, heritage, and cultural organizations that
6 preserve and protect our State's archives, museums, libraries,
7 historic sites, and community collections, ensuring broad
8 public access to Illinois' diverse histories and strengthening
9 opportunities for education, research, and civic engagement
10 for present and future generations; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we support efforts to expand access to
12 high-quality civics education that prepares individuals for
13 thoughtful, constructive participation in our democracy with
14 an understanding of the nation's founding ideals and the
15 diverse people and communities in Illinois who have engaged,
16 and continue to engage, in the work required to realize them
17 fully for our residents and all residents of the states and
18 territories of the United States of America.