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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the University of Illinois Men's Basketball Team,
4 the Fighting Illini, on their historic 2025-26 season; and

5 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini made it to the Final Four of
6 the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament,
7 achieving this feat for the sixth time in program history; and

8 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini reached the Final Four for
9 the third time since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in
10 1985, joining the 1988-89 team, the Flyin' Illini, and the
11 2004-05 team, which won its first 30 games and reached the only
12 national title game in program history; and

13 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini finished the regular season
14 with an overall record of 24 wins and 7 loses, the most
15 regular-season wins in the past 20 years, and a 15 and 5 Big
16 Ten Conference record, tying for the second-most conference
17 wins in program history; and

18 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini team is one of only four
19 teams nationally to have 20+ regular season wins in each of the
20 last seven years, joining Gonzaga, Houston, and San Diego
21 State; and

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Fighting Illini Men's
2 Basketball Team, including all student athletes, coaches, and
3 support staff, have demonstrated dedication, sportsmanship,
4 and academic commitment throughout the season; and

5 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini team's run to the Final Four
6 energized alumni, students, and supporters across the State,
7 reinforcing the University of Illinois System's role as a
8 unifying source of pride and a driver of community, economic,
9 and cultural vitality; and

10 WHEREAS, The success of the Fighting Illini Men's
11 Basketball Program is further strengthened by the leadership
12 of Director of Athletics Josh Whitman, whose vision,
13 stewardship, and commitment to excellence continue to elevate
14 Illinois Athletics and support student athletes in achieving
15 success both on and off the court; and

16 WHEREAS, Fighting Illini Head Coach Brad Underwood now
17 holds the third and fifth spots of the top nine winningest Big
18 Ten seasons in school history; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
21 University of Illinois Men's Basketball Team, the Fighting

1 Illini, on their historic 2025-26 season, and we wish them
2 many more successful seasons; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to the Fighting Illini coaches and player as a
5 symbol of our respect and esteem.