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LRB100 12507 MST 25467 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly
3 recognize that foster youth are some of the State's most
4 precious, valuable, and vulnerable citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, The mission of the Foster Care Alumni of America
6 (FCAA) is to connect the alumni community and to transform
7 policy and practice, ensuring opportunity for people in and
8 from foster care; it seeks to serve and act on behalf of the
9 rights, needs, and well-being of current and former foster
10 youth; and

11 WHEREAS, FCAA-IL is one of 23 state chapters that the FCAA
12 has around the country with members dedicated to its mission;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Children and Family
15 Services (DCFS) protects children who are abused or neglected
16 and tries to help their families safely care for them and
17 provide for their well-being; they provide appropriate,
18 permanent families as quickly as possible for those children
19 who cannot safely return home; they support early intervention
20 and child abuse prevention activities, and they work in
21 partnerships with communities to fulfill this mission; and

1 WHEREAS, The services that DCFS provide include a Statewide
2 Youth Advisory Board whose mission is to advocate and educate
3 all youth in its care; the Statewide Youth Advisory Board is
4 committed to youth empowerment, development, leadership, and
5 achievement across the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, FCAA-IL, working together with DCFS and their
7 Statewide Youth Advisory Board, are proud to host the second
8 Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day
9 on May 10, 2017; and

10 WHEREAS, The purpose of this day is to connect current and
11 former foster children with a state legislator to educate them
12 on the legislative process; the legislators spend their day
13 mentoring them and helping reshape the impression of who youth
14 in foster care and alumni are; this process connects
15 legislators to the youth that they impact directly and
16 indirectly; and

17 WHEREAS, The actions of founding FCAA-IL members April
18 Curtis, Jeremy Harvey, and James McIntyre, DCFS Director George
19 Sheldon, and current and former DCFS Statewide Youth Advisory
20 Board members represent shining examples of those in our
21 communities doing positive things for foster children, past and
22 present, and are responsible for the creation of the Annual
23 Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
4 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize May 10, 2017 as the second
5 Annual Illinois Foster Youth and Alumni Legislative Shadow Day
6 and the dedication, hard work, and significant contributions to
7 the well-being of current and former foster children; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 presented to all participants in recognition of their efforts.