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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On January 27, 2017 and on March 6, 2017,
3 President Donald J. Trump signed executive orders, "Protecting
4 the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United
5 States", purportedly to protect Americans from terrorist
6 attacks by foreign nationals admitted to this country; and

7 WHEREAS, The President's executive order of March 6, 2017
8 barred citizens of six Muslim-majority nations - Iran, Libya,
9 Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen - from entering the United
10 States effective March 16, 2017; it also placed a moratorium on
11 issuing new visas to citizens from these countries for 90 days
12 from the enacted date; furthermore, it suspends all refugee
13 admissions in to the country for 120 days; and

14 WHEREAS, The President's order of January 27, 2017
15 originally included Iraq as one of the countries whose citizens
16 would be barred from entering the United States; although Iraq
17 was removed from the revised order, its citizens would still be
18 subjected to additional scrutiny in applications for visas or
19 upon entering the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, The President's cruel, unnecessary, and bigoted
21 executive orders produced chaos in the United States
22 immigration system in the hours and days immediately following

1 its execution; and

2 WHEREAS, The orders caused widespread confusion in the air
3 and on the ground at U.S. and international airports; they
4 resulted in travelers being detained for hours and questioned
5 by U.S. authorities without legal representation, in some
6 instances separating small children from their parents, and in
7 one case, delaying an urgent medical appointment of a
8 four-month old girl with a heart condition; they prompted
9 vetted refugees and legal residents en route to the United
10 States to be blocked and turned back; they triggered mass
11 protests at airports throughout the country, including in
12 Chicago, and they spurred legal action against the President;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, President Trump's malicious and arbitrary orders
15 bear a striking resemblance to another episode when, during one
16 of the darkest times in human history, America closed its doors
17 to frightened refugees in search of sanctuary, ultimately
18 resulting in the murder of many of them; in 1939, the German
19 ocean liner, the SS St. Louis, set out for the United States by
20 way of Cuba from Hamburg, Germany, with 900 Jewish refugees
21 seeking asylum from Nazi persecution; the passengers were
22 denied entry to the United States, Cuba, and Canada because of
23 strict immigration quotas and were forced to return to Europe;
24 more than half of the Voyage of the SS St. Louis passengers who

1 returned to Europe were killed by Nazis in the Holocaust; and

2 WHEREAS, History has shown that executive decisions about
3 immigration, refugee resettlement, and religious bans can have
4 tragic life-or-death consequences that may go unrecognized for
5 too long; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States, and Illinois in particular,
7 have always welcomed, supported, and protected people of all
8 races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities, so much so
9 that the very self-definition of our country, as expressed both
10 in our founding documents and in our public consciousness,
11 relies upon an open embrace of immigrants and refugees;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we condemn President
15 Donald J. Trump's executive orders barring immigrants and
16 refugees from entering the United States and call on him to
17 uphold and protect the values of all of the people of this
18 great nation, which was founded by immigrants on principles
19 that include religious freedom and the notion that all people
20 are welcome and created equal; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 delivered to the President and Vice-President of the United

1 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States
2 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leaders of the United States
3 House of Representatives, and all members of the Illinois
4 Congressional Delegation.