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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Housing is our State's most important social and economic infrastructure; nearly one in three Illinois families struggles with housing costs; over half of our State's renters need an affordable home, including over half of seniors who rent their homes; we face a critical shortage of an estimated 23,000 supportive housing units for our most vulnerable populations, those who are veterans, disabled, and/or at risk of homelessness; and

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WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to housing as a human right; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois cannot thrive if young adults cannot afford housing and leave Illinois, if businesses leave for states with lower housing costs, and when families struggle to keep a roof over their heads; and

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WHEREAS, The 2009 capital budget set a precedent for investing in housing as infrastructure through an allocation of approximately \$145 million for affordable housing; nearly \$70 million of these funds were used to create 694 affordable rental homes across the State, leveraging an additional \$82.5 million in public and private resources; capital budget dollars allocated towards affordable housing were highly leveraged

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1 with private and public money and were extremely impactful in
2 creating jobs, creating housing, broadening the tax base, and
3 creating new economic activity; and

4 WHEREAS, Communities across our great State still struggle
5 to provide an adequate supply of affordable homes to our
6 residents; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that one of the most
9 urgently required, realistic, and important ways to rebuild our
10 State means investing in where our families live; increasing
11 Illinois' stock of affordable housing would give people more
12 reasons to stay here and entice employers and families to
13 relocate here, save money, build wealth, and achieve a
14 middle-class standard of living; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That allocating \$1 billion towards affordable
16 housing in the State's next capital budget provides an
17 opportunity for us to make a sizable impact on the housing
18 needs of our communities; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That investment in affordable housing would
20 allow development of homes meeting a wide range of needs,
21 including, but not limited to, affordable homes for working
22 families and seniors, supportive housing for people

1 experiencing homelessness, accessible housing for people with
2 disabilities, and affordable memory care homes for people with
3 Alzheimer's disease; homeownership could be supported by
4 rehabbing vacant and abandoned properties; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That investment would be used across the State in
6 urban, suburban, and rural communities to rebuild
7 neighborhoods, create new jobs, attract new investment, and
8 broaden the property tax base; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That with \$1 billion in capital budget funds we
10 could build 10,000 affordable rental homes for working
11 families, seniors, veterans, and people who need supportive
12 housing, create 16,000 jobs in the first year alone, and
13 generate \$755 million in taxes and other revenue for local
14 governments and \$3.9 billion in local income for businesses and
15 workers over the course of 15 years; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That this investment would provide resources to
17 meet the goals of the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act (310
18 ILCS 110), which is to maintain the economic health of our
19 communities by requiring a comprehensive and unified policy for
20 the allocation of resources for affordable housing and
21 supportive services for historically underserved populations
22 throughout the State; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the offices of the Governor, the Capital
3 Development Board, the Housing Development Authority, the
4 Department of Human Services, the Department of
5 Transportation, the Department on Aging, the Department of
6 Children and Family Services, the Department of Corrections,
7 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the
8 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and the
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs.