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LRB101 12707 ALS 61413 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of the United States; at that time, he reiterated that he would be "A President for all Americans"; and

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WHEREAS, There are considerable ethical concerns in terms of the election and Donald Trump's selected staff; and

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WHEREAS, Our democracy is premised on the bedrock principle that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has attempted on two separate occasions to undermine this nation's Constitution by instituting travel bans targeting specific ethnic and religious minorities; and

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WHEREAS, A recent rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric and criminal activity has been attributed to Americans that fervently support the Trump administration and have noted that Trump's nationalist rhetoric has emboldened them to carry out their hateful missions; and

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WHEREAS, The Trump business empire has been embroiled in

1 questionable business dealings, and Donald J. Trump has refused  
2 to release various financial records and documents concerning  
3 his personal income, along with that of his business; and

4 WHEREAS, The Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United  
5 States Constitution provides that, besides the fixed salary for  
6 his or her four-year term, the President "shall not receive  
7 within that Period any other Emolument from the United States,  
8 or any of them"; and

9 WHEREAS, The term "emoluments" includes a broad range of  
10 financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary  
11 payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market  
12 value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and  
13 favorable regulatory treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, Leading constitutional scholars and government  
15 ethics experts warned Donald J. Trump shortly after the  
16 November 2016 election that, unless he fully divested his  
17 businesses and invested the money in conflict-free assets or a  
18 blind trust, he would violate the Constitution from the moment  
19 he took office; and

20 WHEREAS, On January 11, 2017, nine days before his  
21 inauguration, Donald J. Trump announced a plan that would, if  
22 carried out, remove him from day-to-day operations of his

1 businesses but not eliminate any of the ongoing flow of  
2 emoluments from foreign governments, state governments, or the  
3 United States government; and

4 WHEREAS, From the moment he took office, President Trump  
5 was in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the  
6 Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in  
9 Washington has filed a federal lawsuit against Donald J. Trump  
10 alleging that his "business interests are creating countless  
11 conflicts of interest, as well as unprecedented influence by  
12 foreign governments"; and

13 WHEREAS, As Donald Trump has repeatedly attempted to thwart  
14 investigations into his personal business dealings, he has also  
15 obstructed similar attempts to examine the Trump  
16 Administration's ties to representatives of hostile foreign  
17 nations; and

18 WHEREAS, In May of 2017, Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI  
19 Director James Comey as Mr. Comey began to intensify the  
20 Bureau's investigation into alleged Russian interference in  
21 the 2016 General Election and the possibility of collaboration  
22 with the Trump campaign; and

1           WHEREAS, During a meeting at the White House on May 10,  
2           2017, Donald J. Trump appears to have leaked highly classified  
3           information to Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian  
4           Federation Sergey Lavrov and Ambassador of the Russian  
5           Federation to the United States Sergey Kislyak; and

6           WHEREAS, Donald Trump made a series of false claims about  
7           immigration, such as stating that open borders bring tremendous  
8           crime, while undocumented immigrants, in truth, commit crimes  
9           at a lower rate than U.S. citizens; and

10          WHEREAS, Donald Trump has used fearmongering to claim that  
11          a wall will stop drugs from coming across the country's  
12          borders, when most illegal drugs come through legal points of  
13          entry; and

14          WHEREAS, Donald Trump has lied to the media about his plans  
15          to build a wall stretching over 400 miles, while signing  
16          spending bills only allowing for fencing; and

17          WHEREAS, More than 20 immigrants have died in ICE detention  
18          centers in the past two years; and

19          WHEREAS, Donald Trump has falsely stated that the tax  
20          reforms he championed included the largest tax cuts ever

1 passed, when, in reality, the cuts are smaller than two tax  
2 cuts passed under Barack Obama; and

3 WHEREAS, Donald Trump's slogan, "Make America Great  
4 Again," promotes white supremacy, which is a racist belief that  
5 white people are superior to people of other races and  
6 therefore should be dominant over them; and

7 WHEREAS, Donald Trump infringed on civil rights and  
8 insulted service members with his ban on transgender  
9 individuals enlisting in the military; and

10 WHEREAS, Donald Trump took credit for funding the Great  
11 Lakes Restoration Initiative after initially planning to  
12 eliminate it; and

13 WHEREAS, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation  
14 into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election has resulted in 34  
15 indictments, seven guilty pleas, and four people in prison so  
16 far; and

17 WHEREAS, In his report, Special Counsel Robert Mueller  
18 documents multiple instances in which Donald Trump ordered  
19 others to interfere with or end his investigation; and

20 WHEREAS, Special Counsel Robert Mueller stated

1 definitively that if he had been able to clear the President of  
2 obstruction of justice then he would have done so; and

3 WHEREAS, Donald Trump has told more than 10,000 lies to the  
4 people of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, These violations truly undermine the integrity of  
6 the Presidency, corruptly advance the personal wealth of the  
7 President, and violate the public trust; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article II of the United States  
9 Constitution provides, that "The President, Vice President and  
10 all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from  
11 Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery,  
12 or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors"; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United  
15 States House of Representatives to support a resolution  
16 authorizing and directing the House Committee on the Judiciary  
17 to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the  
18 impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States,  
19 including but not limited to the violations listed herein; and  
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 transmitted to all members of the United States Senate, all  
2 members of the United States House of Representatives, all  
3 members of the Illinois General Assembly, and the Governor of  
4 the State of Illinois.