



SR0913

LRB101 14434 MST 66030 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan declared May as National Foster Care Month to recognize the important contributions that foster parents make to society and to the most vulnerable among us by opening their homes to abused and abandoned children; and

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WHEREAS, The number of children in foster care in Illinois has been increasing at an alarming pace; thousands of Illinois children, through no fault of their own, have been separated from their families and are living in foster care; and

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WHEREAS, The number of children in the care of the State of Illinois has reached almost 20,000, which includes over 15,000 foster children, and has increased by more than 2,000 over the past year; and

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WHEREAS, Children in foster care are of all ages and backgrounds; many of them are accompanied by younger brothers and sisters; they need the comfort, support, and security that only a family can provide; and

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WHEREAS, Many foster children will never be re-united with their biological families; approximately half of foster children will not be returned to their birth families; and

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1 WHEREAS, Most of the children under care of the State live
2 in temporary situations with either relatives or foster
3 families; some live in professionally-staffed group settings;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Children deserve the love and security of a home
6 and a 'forever' family; adoption offers stability and better
7 outcomes for children in foster care, allowing them to flourish
8 in a safe, welcoming, and stable environment; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois lags the nation, ranking last among the
10 50 states, in the permanent placement and adoption of children
11 in its foster care system; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois is committed to ensuring that children
13 grow up in healthy, safe, and loving homes; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May of 2020
16 as Foster Care Month in Illinois and urge the Department of
17 Children and Family Services to facilitate and encourage the
18 adoption of children in foster care throughout the State; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Director of Children and Family Services.