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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, International Women's Day commemorates the global, centuries-long struggle of women to participate fully and equitably in society; and

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WHEREAS, Women's Day first emerged as the result of various labor and suffrage movements in North America and Europe in the early 20th century; and

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WHEREAS, The United Nations celebrated its first official International Women's Day on March 8, 1975 during International Women's Year; and

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WHEREAS, Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and women's full empowerment and participation is integral to solving society's most threatening social, economic, and political problems; and

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WHEREAS, International Women's Day is intended to focus the global community's attention on accelerating gender parity; and

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WHEREAS, The theme of this year's International Women's Day, Break the Bias, calls on all of us to challenge inequality and to take meaningful action towards a more equitable and

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1 inclusive world; and

2 WHEREAS, The health disparities that women face have been  
3 exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

4 WHEREAS, Healthy women are the backbone of a thriving,  
5 stable, and resilient society; and

6 WHEREAS, International Women's Day is an opportune time to  
7 raise awareness of the inequity in women's health and begin  
8 efforts to improve such inequities while encouraging all women  
9 to prioritize their health; and

10 WHEREAS, March 8th of each year is recognized as  
11 International Women's Day by countries around the world to  
12 celebrate the past, present, and future achievements of women  
13 as well as the obstacles that women continue to face in their  
14 struggle for equal rights and gender equality; and

15 WHEREAS, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on  
16 the progress we have made in the economic, social, and  
17 political achievements of women and to reaffirm our commitment  
18 to pursue strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of  
19 women and girls both statewide and globally, to promote  
20 meaningful and significant participation of women in all  
21 facets of our society, to encourage equitable access to and

1 healthcare for all women and girls, and to support policy  
2 initiatives that seek to achieve gender parity and empower all  
3 women; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 8,  
6 2022 as "International Women's Day" in the State of Illinois  
7 in order to reflect on the progress made thus far in women's  
8 rights; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That we reaffirm the State's commitment to  
10 pursue strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of  
11 women and girls, to promote meaningful and significant  
12 participation of women in all aspects of our society, to  
13 encourage equitable access to and healthcare for all women and  
14 girls, and to support policy initiatives that seek to achieve  
15 gender parity and empower all women.