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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to honor  
3 Black women, their accomplishments, and their contributions to  
4 the history of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Black women have shaped and molded U.S. history  
6 in innumerable and irrefutable ways, from the moment they  
7 arrived by means of the Middle Passage as slave labor to their  
8 arrival in the White House as the vice president of the United  
9 States; and

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WHEREAS, Even in the face of unimaginable racism rooted in  
11 our violent origins in America, and continued for over 400  
12 years, Black women have risen above their circumstances in the  
13 face of adversity, not just to survive but also to thrive,  
14 imagine, create, achieve, inspire, and excel; and

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WHEREAS, Black women have been the bedrock of the  
16 community, the foundation of the family, the cornerstone of  
17 the Black church, the innovator, the explorer, the  
18 entrepreneur, and so much more; and

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WHEREAS, Instead of accepting discrimination as their  
20 reality, Black women have instead built, created, developed,  
21 implemented, spearheaded, and maintained guilds, sororities,

1 non-profit organizations, clubs, scholarship foundations,  
2 medical associations, and philanthropic affiliations that have  
3 uplifted, improved, inspired, and supported multitudes of  
4 communities with diverse needs; and

5 WHEREAS, It is time to celebrate "Mama" and the ancestors  
6 who taught Black women to be strong, resourceful, and to do  
7 good for the greater good; and

8 WHEREAS, Black women nurture, guide, mentor, and inspire  
9 as they rise to unimaginable heights, overcoming intentional  
10 and systemic barriers; as Black women soar, communities are  
11 uplifted, and we all benefit; and

12 WHEREAS, Black women have excelled in all areas of life,  
13 including but not limited to journalism, education, medicine,  
14 art, law and government, and business; this is exemplified in  
15 the lives of Black women who hail from the State of Illinois,  
16 such as Dr. Carol Adams, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Rev. Willie  
17 Barrow, United States Ambassador and Senator Carol Moseley  
18 Braun, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Burroughs, Bessie Coleman,  
19 Rev. Johnnie Coleman, Marva Collins, Lorraine Hansbury, Vivian  
20 Harsh, Jennifer Hudson, Mahalia Jackson, Mae Jemison, Jackie  
21 Joyner-Kersey, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Chaka Khan, Annie  
22 Turnbo Malone, Mamie Till Mobley, Diane Nash, Michelle Obama,  
23 Shonda Rhimes, Georgiana Simpson, Illinois Lieutenant Governor

1 Juliana Stratton, Jacqueline Vaughn and Oprah Winfrey; and

2 WHEREAS, Black women have stood in solidarity with women  
3 and men of all backgrounds, sexual orientations, races,  
4 religious affiliations, and ethnicities across Illinois, the  
5 United States, and the world in an effort to demand parity and  
6 equity of all human beings in all areas of life; and

7 WHEREAS, February 28th intentionally connects the  
8 nationally recognized months of February with Black History  
9 Month and March with Women's History Month, uplifting the  
10 unique intersectionality of race and gender of being both  
11 Black and a woman; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare February  
14 28, 2023 as Black Women's History Day in the State of Illinois  
15 to honor the accomplishments, power, beauty, courage,  
16 intelligence, ingenuity, stewardship, and leadership of Black  
17 women; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage all Illinoisans and their  
19 families to acknowledge, in word and in deed, the  
20 accomplishments of Black women in places where they live,  
21 work, and play, because doing so recognizes Black women's  
22 history as American history.