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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty on September 3, 1981, and by 2003, well over three-fourths of the world, 174 nations, have agreed to be bound by the Convention's provisions; and

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WHEREAS, The United States supports and has a position of leadership in the United Nations, and was an active participant in the drafting and is a signatory to the Convention; and

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WHEREAS, The spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the United Nations and the United States to affirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women; and

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WHEREAS, The Convention provides a comprehensive framework for challenging the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based on sex against half the world's population; the nations in support of the present Convention have agreed to follow Convention prescriptions; and

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WHEREAS, Although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in social, business, political, legal, educational, and other fields in this century, there is much yet to be accomplished and, through its support, leadership, and prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer discriminated against and have achieved one of the most fundamental of human rights, equality; and

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WHEREAS, President George W. Bush and the Secretary of State have put this treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in Category III of priority in order to accelerate the Treaty's

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1 passage through the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and
2 the full U.S. Senate with the goal of United States
3 ratification; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we exhort the Senate
6 Foreign Relations Committee to again pass this Treaty favorably
7 out of Committee; and send it to the Senate floor; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Senate of the United
10 States to vote favorably to ratify the United Nations
11 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
12 against Women and to support the Convention's continuing goals;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the President of the United States, the Secretary
16 of State of the United States, the President of the United
17 States Senate, the Chair and the members of the Senate Foreign
18 Relations Committee, and to each member of the Illinois
19 congressional delegation.