



SJ0057

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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Glaucoma affects more than 2.2 million Americans  
3 age 40 and older, including nearly 100,000 individuals in  
4 Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is indicative of tragic health  
6 disparities, affecting African Americans six to eight times  
7 more frequently than Caucasians; and

8 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness for  
9 African Americans, with elder African Americans 14 to 16 times  
10 more likely to go blind from glaucoma than their Caucasian  
11 counterparts; and

12 WHEREAS, Latinos and women are also disproportionately  
13 affected by glaucoma in younger age groups than other  
14 populations; and

15 WHEREAS, Glaucoma affects increasing numbers of older  
16 people across all races and ethnicities, reducing the quality  
17 of life for people in their golden years; and

18 WHEREAS, Glaucoma causes people to lose their peripheral  
19 sight, oftentimes without the individual knowing it, and  
20 consequently only half of all people with glaucoma are aware of  
21 their condition; and

22 WHEREAS, Because of the furtive nature of how glaucoma  
23 progresses, it is commonly called the "Sneak Thief of Sight";  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Most cases of glaucoma can be controlled and  
26 vision loss can be slowed or halted when identified and  
27 treated; and

1           WHEREAS, When glaucoma is undetected, lost sight cannot be  
2 restored; and

3           WHEREAS, Glaucoma runs in the family, yet few people know  
4 to have regular dilated eye examinations if they are at higher  
5 risk via their family history; and

6           WHEREAS, Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading  
7 voluntary health organization dedicated to saving sight and  
8 preventing blindness, in partnership with the Illinois Society  
9 for the Prevention of Blindness, seeks to educate the citizens  
10 of Illinois at large, and especially people in communities of  
11 higher risk, about the dangers of glaucoma and the importance  
12 of regular eye examinations; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
15 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we join with Prevent Blindness America  
16 and the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness in  
17 recognizing January as Glaucoma Awareness Month; and be it  
18 further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Prevent Blindness America and the Illinois Society  
21 for the Prevention of Blindness.