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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is a major center for news  
3 media; and

4 WHEREAS, The talent of the men and women who work in media  
5 is recognized, in part, by fair pay and benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, Chicago is the fourth-largest Spanish language  
7 media market in the country; and

8 WHEREAS, As a result of the rapid growth of the Latino  
9 population in Illinois, Spanish language media is becoming  
10 increasingly important in our State; and

11 WHEREAS, NBC, a subsidiary of General Electric, recognized  
12 the national importance and economic strength of the Latino  
13 community by its decision to purchase the Telemundo Television  
14 Network and its fifteen owned and operated stations for \$1.98  
15 billion in 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, NBC owns and operates WMAQ, its English language  
17 outlet, and WSNS, the Telemundo Spanish language outlet in  
18 Chicago; and

19 WHEREAS, NBC spent more than \$10 million to create a single  
20 newsroom for the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking  
21 journalists in its employ; and

22 WHEREAS, NBC should treat its new Spanish-speaking  
23 employees with the same professional respect as it extends to  
24 its English language employees; and

25 WHEREAS, NBC should provide its Spanish language  
26 broadcasters with the same level of comparable wages, benefits,  
27 and working conditions as its English language newsmen; and

1           WHEREAS, The on-air newsmen at WSNS-TV Telemundo voted  
2 for representation by the American Federation of Television and  
3 Radio Artists, AFL-CIO (AFTRA) which represents more than 3,000  
4 performers and broadcasters in the State of Illinois, including  
5 the 43 English-speaking journalists employed by NBC's WMAQ; and

6           WHEREAS, This successful vote for union representation was  
7 won after a hard fought campaign in which the support for the  
8 Telemundo broadcasters by the WSNS viewing audience and Latino  
9 community organizations throughout Chicago was critically  
10 important; and

11           WHEREAS, NBC/Telemundo and AFTRA have been negotiating for  
12 a first contract for nearly two years with little progress; and

13           WHEREAS, NBC/Telemundo has not offered its  
14 Spanish-speaking journalists wages, benefits, and working  
15 conditions comparable to the terms it provides to its  
16 English-speaking journalists on WMAQ even though they share  
17 work and a newsroom; and

18           WHEREAS, After nearly two years, it is past time for  
19 NBC/Telemundo to reach an overall collective bargaining  
20 agreement that is fair to the Spanish-speaking journalists who  
21 appear on WSNS; therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that by adoption of this  
24 resolution, the Senate of the State of Illinois urges  
25 NBC/Telemundo to meet with the American Federation of  
26 Television and Radio Artists and negotiate in good faith a  
27 contract for WSNS-TV Telemundo broadcast journalists.