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LRB095 12090 GRL 35953 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Developmental disabilities are defined as those disabilities caused by intellectual or cognitive disability, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or any other condition which results in impairment similar to that of intellectual disability (formerly known as mental retardation), which originates before the age of 18 and is expected to continue indefinitely; and

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WHEREAS, Approximately 1.8 percent of the U.S. population is afflicted with a developmental disability and one in 150 children will be diagnosed with autism; and

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WHEREAS, Every individual with a developmental disability has the right to live with dignity, to achieve their highest potential, and to be included in our communities; and

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WHEREAS, The Autism Society of Illinois, The ARC of Illinois, and the Family Support Network, are not-for-profit organizations dedicated to the purpose of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, The mission of the Autism Society of Illinois is to promote through advocacy, public awareness, education, and research, lifelong access and opportunities for persons within

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1 the autism spectrum disorder and their families in order that
2 they may be fully included, participating members of their
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, The mission of the Arc of Illinois is to empower
5 persons with disabilities to achieve full participation in
6 community life through informed choices; and

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the Family Support Network is to
8 unify individuals with disabilities and their families to
9 advocate for funding, services, and community resources that
10 strengthen and support the individual and the family directly
11 by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to
12 live in their own homes; the Family Support Network further
13 seeks to ensure the continuation of all individual supports
14 throughout the life span of the individual; and

15 WHEREAS, Hundreds of persons with developmental
16 disabilities and their families will convene in the Illinois
17 State Capitol on May 16, 2007, to show their support for
18 legislation, funding, and policies that support individuals
19 with developmental disabilities, including autism, and that
20 promote self-determination and inclusion in our communities;
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we do hereby proclaim
2 May 16, 2007, as Developmental Disability and Autism Family Day
3 at the Illinois State Capitol; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the Illinois Autism Society, The Arc of Illinois,
6 and the Family Support Network as an expression of our esteem.