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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, This year, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's
3 Association celebrates its 25th year representing the nearly
4 2,500 thoroughbred horse owners and trainers who work at
5 Arlington International Racecourse and Hawthorne Race Course;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Thoroughbred
8 Horsemen's Association support directly or indirectly, through
9 their investments and work in Illinois horse racing, tens of
10 thousands of additional jobs statewide, including backstretch
11 workers, breeders, veterinarians, blacksmiths, and feed and
12 hay suppliers - an investment with an estimated value of more
13 than \$250 million annually; and

14 WHEREAS, Through its benevolent arm, the Chicago
15 Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation, Illinois Thoroughbred
16 Horsemen's Association has provided more than 150 scholarships
17 to the college-bound children of backstretch workers - workers
18 who are responsible for grooming, maintaining, and caring for
19 the horses; the Chicago Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation
20 supports athletic activities for the children of these workers,
21 who, together with their families, reside on the backstretch;
22 the Chicago Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation also provides
23 financial assistance for healthcare and other expenses of

1 backstretch workers; and

2 WHEREAS, Through its horse retirement program, "Galloping
3 Out", the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association works
4 to facilitate the adoption of retired thoroughbred race horses
5 by families across Illinois and in other states; Galloping Out
6 provides funding for the care, rehabilitation, and retraining
7 of these horses; once adopted, these horses work with children
8 with developmental disabilities or participate in trail
9 riding, jumping, polo, or other recreational activities; in
10 2014, Galloping Out will re-home its 100th retired thoroughbred
11 horse; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout its 25-year tenure, the Illinois
13 Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has advocated for policies
14 that increase breeder awards and otherwise strengthen and grow
15 our State's thoroughbred breeding program; and

16 WHEREAS, The Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
17 advocates for a strict and consistently enforced drug-testing
18 program that is imperative for preserving public confidence in
19 horse racing while also protecting the welfare of the horses,
20 jockeys, and other participants in the Illinois horse racing
21 industry; in that regard, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's
22 Association took a leading role in advocating for our State's
23 adoption of a national uniform medication and drug testing

1 policy that, once fully implemented, will position Illinois
2 with other states in helping to make medication rules uniform
3 across the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Even as the horse racing industry nationwide has
5 contracted in recent years, and even as Illinois horse racing
6 faces significant challenges in competing against horse racing
7 in other states, the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's
8 Association has devoted itself to advocating for policies that
9 enhance Illinois horse racing and protect the best interests of
10 Illinois horsemen, along with the tens of thousands of jobs
11 that they support; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we recognize the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
15 on the occasion of its 25th anniversary and congratulate the
16 organization for its charitable activities and advocacy on
17 behalf of horsemen working at Arlington International
18 Racecourse and Hawthorne Race Course; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the leadership of the Illinois Thoroughbred
21 Horsemen's Association.