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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 150th anniversary for Regional Superintendents of Schools in Illinois, represented by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools; and

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WHEREAS, Regional Superintendents of Schools have a rich history of serving as an essential support office between the Illinois State Board of Education and local school districts; and

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WHEREAS, The office of County Superintendent of Schools was created as a predecessor for Regional Superintendents of Schools by State law in 1865; the County Superintendent was to serve 4 years in office and was required to visit each school in the county at least once a year; and

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WHEREAS, These first County Superintendents were also allowed to sell school lands, were given the custody of all county school funds, and were the official advisers of school officers and teachers in their counties and the agents of the State Superintendent of Schools in reaching schools; and

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WHEREAS, Duties for County Superintendents grew significantly over the next several decades, including to

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1 oversee the difficult process of large-scale school
2 consolidations in the 1950s; and

3 WHEREAS, County Superintendents shrank from 102 offices to
4 78 and became Regional Superintendents in 1973; further
5 consolidation dropped the number of offices to 57 in 1977; and

6 WHEREAS, Further consolidation will reduce the number of
7 Regional Offices of Education to 35 in July of 2015, along with
8 3 Intermediate Service Centers that serve schools in Cook
9 County outside Chicago; and

10 WHEREAS, As Regional Superintendents of Schools turn 150
11 this year, they are a vital part of educational success for
12 students in every county of Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Regional Superintendents of Schools are committed
14 to providing 3 pillars of exceptional service to students,
15 educators, and parents: (1) safety, by inspecting school
16 buildings and ensuring school bus drivers are trained and
17 teachers have proper background checks and fingerprints; (2)
18 support, by licensing educators and providing top-notch
19 professional development services; and (3) success, by
20 providing safe schools and administering high school
21 equivalency examinations and certificates; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize and
3 congratulate the members of the Illinois Association of
4 Regional Superintendents of Schools on their sesquicentennial
5 celebration; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the leadership at the Illinois Association of
8 Regional Superintendents of Schools as an expression of our
9 esteem and respect.