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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month, recognized from September 15 through October 15, is an annual celebration of the history and culture of the U.S. Latino and Hispanic communities, and it is a commemoration of how those communities have influenced and contributed to American society; and

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WHEREAS, The origins of Hispanic Heritage Month date back to California in the 1960s, where Latino and Hispanic residents joined in multiple societal movements, including the civil rights movement and the farm worker protection movement; and

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WHEREAS, The observance of Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 to coincide with the independence days of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, which falls on September 16, and Chile, which falls on September 18; and

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WHEREAS, Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of past generations of Hispanics who came from all over the world, including Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and Spain; and

1           WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, Hispanic  
2 Americans have significantly shaped our national and state  
3 identities time and time again by advancing the principles of  
4 freedom and representative government through the efforts of  
5 leaders, including Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta who  
6 advocated for labor rights, and countless trailblazers,  
7 including astronaut Ellen Ochoa with her historic space  
8 travel, Justice Sonia Sotomayor with her appointment to the  
9 U.S. Supreme Court, and Hispanic citizens who lead in public  
10 office, business, community roles, the arts, agricultural  
11 fields, and faith-based work; and

12           WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month fosters ethnic pride and  
13 enhances the profile of cultural diversity, strengthening the  
14 fabric of the communities of the great State of Illinois; and

15           WHEREAS, Illinois is proud to be home to a vibrant  
16 Hispanic and Latin American community, including families who  
17 have lived here for generations as well as recent arrivals,  
18 who make up approximately 19% of the population and continue  
19 to shape the State's identity through their contributions to  
20 local businesses, the arts, education, public life, and  
21 cultural traditions and events that unify communities across  
22 the diaspora and celebrate the richness of their collective  
23 heritage; and

1           WHEREAS, The Hispanic community has contributed  
2 significantly to the State's economy, culture, and civic life,  
3 including over \$100 billion in annual economic impact; and

4           WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest and fastest-growing  
5 ethnic minority in our nation, and Hispanic multiculturalism,  
6 diversity, and leadership in this State have contributed to a  
7 stronger, healthier, and more just Illinois; and

8           WHEREAS, The contribution of Hispanic and Latino Americans  
9 in Illinois expands past their economic impact to include  
10 their rich history of tradition, family values, and community,  
11 which keeps them centered; and

12           WHEREAS, Honoring the rich contributions of Hispanic and  
13 Latino communities includes fighting for the health, dignity,  
14 and well-being of our communities; and

15           WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos in the United States have  
16 the highest uninsured rate of any racial or ethnic group and  
17 express greater concern about deportations compared to other  
18 communities; and

19           WHEREAS, More than six million Latinas live in 26 states  
20 that have banned or are likely to ban abortion, and more than

1 half of these Latinas are already disproportionately impacted  
2 by economic insecurity; and

3 WHEREAS, Women, especially Latinas in the United States,  
4 are being put in danger by the latest violent attacks on women  
5 by masked U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
6 officers and those who are using this moment to impersonate  
7 immigration enforcement officers under this administration;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, These compounding inequities disproportionately  
10 affect women and children in mixed-status households,  
11 undermining their well-being and long-term development; and

12 WHEREAS, Reproductive justice affirms that everyone has  
13 the right to make decisions about their own bodies, including  
14 the ability to parent in safe and healthy communities free  
15 from fear of raids, prisons, or surveillance, and that access  
16 to health care is a fundamental human right, regardless of  
17 documentation status; and

18 WHEREAS, The right to family unity, bodily autonomy, and  
19 universal healthcare is protected under various international  
20 human rights treaties, and any violations of these rights de  
21 facto weaken our power on the global stage; and

1           WHEREAS, Latin American countries have made significant  
2 progress on guaranteeing universal healthcare access, securing  
3 rights to abortion access, and protecting children's rights  
4 due to their deeply-held cultural values of caring for the  
5 life and the dignity of their people; and

6           WHEREAS, Our State greatly benefits from the deeply-held  
7 cultural values of family and dignity embedded in our Hispanic  
8 and Latino communities; and

9           WHEREAS, It is important to highlight these realities in  
10 order to recognize and uphold the critical importance of  
11 inclusive, humane health and immigration policies that honor  
12 the resilience and contributions of Hispanic communities to  
13 our nation's social and economic fabric; and

14           WHEREAS, It is imperative for the State of Illinois to  
15 uphold the critical and important message of promoting  
16 inclusion, honoring multicultural heritage, and acknowledging  
17 the contributions of all communities to its progress and  
18 identity; and

19           WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month facilitates a meaningful  
20 opportunity to educate the public, engage in dialogue, and  
21 foster pride, unity, and understanding across all communities  
22 in Illinois; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we declare September 15, 2025 through October 15, 2025 as  
4 Hispanic Heritage Month in the State of Illinois; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That we encourage all residents to participate  
7 in activities, ceremonies, and educational programs that honor  
8 the achievements and contributions of Hispanic and Latino  
9 Americans.