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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator Rickey R. Hendon was born the youngest of four children to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy G. Hendon of Cleveland, Ohio; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Hendon grew up in Chicago and attended Bryant Elementary School, Mason Upper Grade Center, and Farragut High School; before graduation, his family moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he graduated as an honor student from Northwestern High School; and

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WHEREAS, With a passion for theater and the arts, Senator Hendon enrolled at Omega State Institute, where he graduated and earned his First Class Communications license, which led him to a career in radio, where for eight years he worked at several radio stations including WVVX, WAIT, and FM 100; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was appointed the 27th Ward Democratic Committeeman on September 5, 1987, by the Democratic Central Committee after being selected by the late Mayor of Chicago, the Honorable Harold Washington; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was later elected the 27th Ward Democratic Committeeman for a full four-year term, by a two-to-one margin; he was re-elected Democratic Committeeman

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1 in 1992; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was elected Alderman of the 27th
3 Ward in 1988 and held that position until his election to the
4 State Senate; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was unanimously elected to a term
6 as Chairman of the Westside Black Elected Officials in April of
7 1988; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was appointed Secretary/Treasurer
9 of the Cook County Forest Preserve by President George Dunne on
10 June 6, 1988; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon's desire to become more involved in
12 creating public policy led him to seek office in the General
13 Assembly and he was first elected to the Illinois Senate in
14 November of 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has served on and led numerous
16 committees during his tenure in the Senate, including the
17 Senate Committees on: Appropriations, Commerce and Industry,
18 Energy, Environment and Energy (Vice Chairman), Executive
19 (Vice Chairman), Executive Appointments (Minority
20 Spokesperson, and Co-Chairman), Financial Institutions,
21 Gaming, Housing and Community Affairs, Insurance and Pensions,

1 Labor, Labor and Commerce, Licensed Activities (Minority
2 Spokesperson), Local Government and Elections, Rules, and
3 State Government Operations (Minority Spokesperson); and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon was the youngest African-American
5 male appointed to a Senate Caucus Leadership position when he
6 was named Assistant Majority Leader in 2003, a position he held
7 until his retirement; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon, in addition to being a published
9 author, has been the sponsor and a vocal advocate of numerous
10 legislative initiatives aimed at improving the lives of
11 Illinois citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon, early in his legislative career,
13 waged a successful battle to protect neighborhoods in his
14 district by stopping legislative efforts to make hazardous
15 dumping easier; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has always been a vocal proponent
17 of making Chicago and the State of Illinois a viable location
18 for film production and has served as the lead advocate for the
19 State's film production tax credit, which has led to diverse
20 opportunities for movie and television production throughout
21 the State; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon, seeing Illinois' criminal justice
2 system relying on a flawed practice for administering capital
3 punishment, was an early proponent of calling for its
4 abolishment; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon sought to protect the
6 neighborhoods of his district by advocating for youth
7 intervention services and empowering residents to feel safe in
8 their homes through various initiatives that fight gang
9 violence and discourage drug trafficking, all the while helping
10 citizens retain their civil rights and fighting the unnecessary
11 intrusion of State government into the lives of its citizens;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon, responding to resident
14 complaints, passed legislation creating the Citizen Review
15 Board to monitor activities of the Chicago Housing Authority
16 Police in an effort to bring C.H.A. residents and police
17 together and to stop abuse and violence in C.H.A. housing
18 facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has built a strong record of
20 protecting children from sex offenders by making it unlawful
21 for a convicted child sex offender to be within 500 feet of a
22 school; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon worked diligently to give drivers a
2 fair shake on Illinois roads by reforming the way the
3 controversial Red Light Cameras are used to enforce traffic
4 violations; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has always been a champion for
6 Illinois' children, seniors, and those without a voice in
7 government, ensuring access to quality schools, health care,
8 and transportation, working to ensure the solvency of Illinois'
9 Transit Boards, and providing advocacy for low-income seniors
10 to receive assistance in obtaining reduced transportation
11 fares; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has always shown his competitive
13 spirit with his colleagues in the General Assembly, but never
14 more so than in defense of the championship of the annual
15 Senate-House softball game, where Coach Hendon has led his
16 team, which he lovingly called "The House of Lords", to many
17 glorious victories over the "Lower Chamber" of the General
18 Assembly; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon has also been the strong leader of
20 his local softball team, The Fighting 5th, which competed in
21 the National ASA Tournament and finished 7th out of 40 teams in
22 Iowa in 2006, in addition to winning two other championships;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Hendon, during his many years of public
2 service, has been the recipient of numerous awards for his
3 outstanding service; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Rickey "Hollywood" Hendon's retirement
5 from the Illinois Senate will leave an enormous hole, not to be
6 filled by any one individual or voice; and while saddened by
7 his departure, this chamber and its members respect his deeply
8 thought out decision to indulge in the quietness of a private
9 citizen and to enjoy life with his five children, friends, and
10 family; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Rickey
13 Hendon for his years of service to the people of Illinois and
14 honor him with this resolution; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Senator Rickey Hendon as a symbol of our gratitude
17 and with our best wishes for his future endeavors.