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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois relies on medicolegal  
3 professionals, including medical examiners, coroners, forensic  
4 pathologists, death investigators, forensic scientists, and  
5 essential support staff, to serve at the critical intersection  
6 of medicine, law, and public safety; and

7           WHEREAS, Illinois medicolegal professionals are entrusted  
8 with the accurate and impartial investigation of deaths, the  
9 determination of cause and manner of death, and the  
10 application of scientific principles in support of the justice  
11 system; and

12           WHEREAS, These professionals are routinely required to  
13 respond to death scenes, mass fatality incidents, public  
14 health emergencies, natural disasters, and acts of violence  
15 alongside law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical  
16 services, and other public safety personnel; and

17           WHEREAS, Despite their essential on-scene and emergency  
18 response responsibilities, medicolegal professionals are not  
19 uniformly recognized as first responders, notwithstanding  
20 their exposure to hazardous environments, traumatic scenes,  
21 biohazards, and significant occupational stressors; and

1           WHEREAS, Acknowledging medicolegal professionals as first  
2 responders affirms the critical nature of their work, supports  
3 parity in professional recognition and resources, and enhances  
4 coordinated emergency response, responder wellness, and public  
5 safety outcomes; and

6           WHEREAS, The National Association of Medical Examiners  
7 (NAME) and the International Association of Coroners and  
8 Medical Examiners (IACME) have each issued position statements  
9 recognizing the importance of Medicolegal Professionals' Week,  
10 affirming the essential role medicolegal professionals play in  
11 death investigation, public health, the administration of  
12 justice, and emergency response; and

13           WHEREAS, Recognizing Medicolegal Professionals' Week  
14 fosters public awareness of the indispensable role these  
15 professionals play in protecting public health, ensuring  
16 accountability, and upholding justice across the State of  
17 Illinois; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we declare the week of January 25 through January 31, 2026 as  
21 Medicolegal Professionals' Week in the State of Illinois.