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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at
3 Southern Illinois University Carbondale is a nonprofit,
4 nonpartisan think tank dedicated to promoting better politics
5 and smarter government while preparing young people for
6 careers in public service; and

7 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute provides
8 internships that offer students real-world experience and
9 knowledge in public service, as well as in their field of
10 interest, and have been led by Dr. Linda Renee Baker as
11 director for more than 10 years, providing mentorship,
12 leadership, and guidance to students pursuing careers in
13 public service; these internships, which include the Alexander
14 Lane Internship, the Barb Brown Internship, the Gene Callahan
15 Internship, the Latino Heritage Internship, the Social Work
16 Internship, and the Vince Demuzio Internship, allow interns
17 the opportunity to work closely with their placement offices
18 to aid in research, office support, and programming; and

19 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute offers a
20 variety of scholarships annually to support and recognize
21 outstanding students, including the Barb Brown Memorial
22 Scholarship, the David Yepsen Director's Award, the Edwin D.
23 Phillips Debate Team Scholarship, the Jeanne Hurley Simon

1 Memorial Scholarship, the Mike Lawrence Scholarship, and the
2 Matt Baughman Scholarship; and

3 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute also
4 pursues a number of initiatives each year, such as Women's
5 Civic Day, an event that brings female students from Southern
6 Illinois University Carbondale to the Illinois Capitol
7 Building to promote the contributions of women legislators and
8 public sector leaders and to encourage the continued
9 development of women's leadership and involvement in public
10 affairs; and

11 WHEREAS, Women's Civic Day serves to highlight the
12 contributions of women to public service in Illinois and
13 inspire future engagement by providing students with the
14 opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, including
15 legislators, public sector leaders, and community
16 coordinators, during a one-day event typically held in the
17 spring at the Illinois Capitol Building in Springfield; and

18 WHEREAS, Women's Civic Day is the inspiration behind the
19 creation of the registered student organization Women in
20 Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Southern Illinois
21 University Carbondale, which has been championed by President
22 Journey Short and Secretary Traseanda Jones, members of the
23 2025 Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Intern Class; and

1 WHEREAS, The success of the 2026 Women's Civic Day has
2 only been made possible thanks to the leadership of Dr. Baker
3 and the dedication of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's
4 current interns, including 2026 Alexander Lane Intern
5 Kaitlynn Franklin, 2026 Gene Callahan Interns Penny Bordewick
6 and Will Feurer, 2026 Barbara Brown Intern D'Nyia Williams,
7 2026 Social Work Intern Tatiana Castillo, and 2026 Celia
8 Howard Fellow and Women in Public Policy and Civic
9 Engagement's Student Engagement Liaison VanKevia Garner, each
10 of whom played an integral role in organizing and supporting
11 this year's program; and

12 WHEREAS, The 2026 Women's Civic Day welcomes and
13 celebrates the participation of many outstanding Southern
14 Illinois University Carbondale students, including Olivia
15 Ortt, VanKevia Garner, Tatiana Castillo, Melanie Harriss, Macy
16 Sanchez, Demetria Gooden, Briana Bolt, Journey Short, Amilia
17 Estrada, Priyanka Subedi, Sanya Elsharkawy, Damiloa Esther,
18 Mehak Saeed, Roxana Llonatop, Sarah Akomoh, Aaliyah Russell,
19 Tista Nazrul, Yahri Edmond, and Sheraya Bernard, each of whom
20 demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement, leadership, and
21 public service; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we declare March 25, 2026 as Women's Civic Day in the State of
2 Illinois to celebrate and promote the vital role of women in
3 public service and encourage the development of future women
4 leaders in public affairs; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute as a
7 symbol of our respect and esteem.