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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Spoken word poetry has long served as a powerful  
3 and transformative medium for inner-city youth and  
4 marginalized communities, particularly Black artists, to  
5 express their lived experiences, creativity, and cultural  
6 identity; and

7 WHEREAS, Impactful initiatives, such as Louder Than a Bomb  
8 and P.O.E.T (People Of Extraordinary Talent), have provided  
9 mentorship, artistic development, and emotional healing to  
10 at-risk youth within Illinois' public schools and  
11 neighborhoods; and

12 WHEREAS, While April is recognized as National Poetry  
13 Month, its focus is primarily on literary, written, and  
14 academic forms of poetry, often excluding the dynamic  
15 performance-based tradition of spoken word; and

16 WHEREAS, Spoken word poetry, performed and lived in real  
17 time, serves as a vital tool for emotional expression, youth  
18 empowerment, community healing, and violence prevention across  
19 our great State; and

20 WHEREAS, The National Spoken Word Awards and National  
21 Spoken Word Fest, held annually in Chicago each September,

1 have established Illinois as a national epicenter for spoken  
2 word artists, educators, and cultural innovators; and

3 WHEREAS, These events and related programming are anchored  
4 by the work of internationally acclaimed poet, activist, and  
5 Illinois native Blaq Ice, whose lifelong dedication to  
6 uplifting communities through spoken word has brought national  
7 attention and pride to our State; and

8 WHEREAS, Spoken word mentorship programs have demonstrated  
9 effectiveness in reducing youth violence by providing positive  
10 alternatives, leadership development, and creative platforms  
11 for expression; and

12 WHEREAS, Designating September as Spoken Word Month in  
13 Illinois will promote arts-based community engagement and  
14 cultural pride across generations, racial backgrounds, and  
15 geographic regions; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September  
18 2025 as Spoken Word Month in the State of Illinois; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That we encourage collaboration among school  
21 districts, community organizations, cultural institutions, and

1 youth development agencies to implement spoken word mentorship  
2 programs and events statewide during the month of September  
3 2025; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the State of Illinois to promote  
5 awareness and support for the National Spoken Word Awards and  
6 Festival held in Chicago through marketing, public outreach,  
7 and partnership with local and statewide arts agencies; and be  
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That we recognize the positive social impact of  
10 spoken word as an art form, educational tool, and cultural  
11 beacon and that September 2025, will be a time to celebrate and  
12 elevate spoken word artists and organizations throughout the  
13 Land of Lincoln.