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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On January 27, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order, "Protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States", purportedly to protect Americans from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals admitted to this country; and

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WHEREAS, The President's order barred citizens of seven Muslim-majority nations - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen - from entering the United States for 90 days; it suspended all refugee admissions to the country for 120 days, and indefinitely barred Syrian refugees from entering the United States; and

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WHEREAS, The President's cruel, unnecessary, and bigoted executive order produced chaos in the United States immigration system in the hours and days immediately following its execution; and

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WHEREAS, The order caused widespread confusion in the air and on the ground at U.S. and international airports; it resulted in travelers being detained for hours and questioned by U.S. authorities without legal representation, in some instances separating small children from their parents, and in one case, delaying an urgent medical appointment of a

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1 four-month old girl with a heart condition; it prompted vetted  
2 refugees and legal residents en route to the United States to  
3 be blocked and turned back; it triggered mass protests at  
4 airports throughout the country, including in Chicago, and it  
5 spurred legal action against the President; and

6 WHEREAS, President Trump's malicious and arbitrary order  
7 bears a striking resemblance to another episode when, during  
8 one of the darkest times in human history, America closed its  
9 doors to frightened refugees in search of sanctuary, ultimately  
10 resulting in the murder of many of them; in 1939, the German  
11 ocean liner, the SS St. Louis, set out for the United States by  
12 way of Cuba from Hamburg, Germany, with 900 Jewish refugees  
13 seeking asylum from Nazi persecution; the passengers were  
14 denied entry to the United States, Cuba, and Canada because of  
15 strict immigration quotas and were forced to return to Europe;  
16 more than half of the Voyage of the SS St. Louis passengers who  
17 returned to Europe were killed by Nazis in the Holocaust; and

18 WHEREAS, History has shown that executive decisions about  
19 immigration, refugee resettlement, and religious bans can have  
20 tragic life-or-death consequences that may go unrecognized for  
21 too long; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States, and Illinois in particular,  
23 have always welcomed, supported, and protected people of all

1 races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities, so much so  
2 that the very self-definition of our country, as expressed both  
3 in our founding documents and in our public consciousness,  
4 relies upon an open embrace of immigrants and refugees;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we condemn President  
8 Donald J. Trump's executive order barring refugees from the  
9 United States and call on him to uphold and protect the values  
10 of all of the people of this great nation, which was founded by  
11 immigrants on principles that include religious freedom and the  
12 notion that all people are welcome and created equal; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to the President and Vice-President of the United  
16 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States  
17 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leaders of the United States  
18 House of Representatives, and all members of the Illinois  
19 Congressional Delegation.