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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois believes in equal treatment and opportunity for all citizens, including those on the autism spectrum; and

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WHEREAS, Individuals on the autism spectrum deserve the educational, employment, recreational, and other opportunities that a nurturing and welcoming community can foster; and

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WHEREAS, Thanks to a parent-led volunteer initiative spanning nearly two decades, Autism McLean has established an Autism Friendly Community presence in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County; and

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WHEREAS, This initiative includes providing a white paper for local governments on an Autism Friendly Community and working with local governments, planning agencies, public institutions, and private businesses to establish Autism Friendly guidelines; and

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WHEREAS, Autism McLean, through its Autism Friendly Community initiative, partners with other autism-focused organizations, including Marcfirst, the HEAL Foundation, The Autism Program, the Illinois Wesleyan University Autism Peer Group, and Illinois State University Students Supporting

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1 Individuals with Disabilities, to raise awareness on autism;
2 this includes helping local agencies, governmental bodies, and
3 the private sector accommodate individuals and their families
4 living with autism in seeking employment, housing, education,
5 recreation, and full community inclusion; and

6 WHEREAS, Along with reaching community goals, this
7 outreach includes making Autism Sensory kits available to local
8 museums, restaurants, libraries, and other institutions so
9 that tools are available to assist people on the autism
10 spectrum to feel included and comfortable in public settings;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, General awareness of autism throughout McLean
13 County has increased due to these volunteer efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, Autism McLean, through its Autism Friendly
15 Community initiative, runs a model program that other
16 communities in the state could replicate by uniting parents,
17 allies, self-advocates, and local agencies; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we commend Autism McLean and its partners for their efforts to
21 provide community building and opportunities for people on the
22 autism spectrum; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, We commend Autism McLean and its Autism Friendly
2 Community partners for operating such a successful community
3 resource that has statewide implications, and we encourage
4 other communities to study this model for autism inclusion; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we commend Bloomington-Normal and McLean
7 County for leading the state with its first Autism Friendly
8 Community initiative.