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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, After the United States entered World War II, the demand for nurses increased dramatically, outstripping supply and creating a nursing shortage; and

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WHEREAS, In order to alleviate this critical shortage, a plan was conceived to accelerate the training of nursing students and to allow such nursing students to serve during such training; and

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WHEREAS, On March 29, 1943, Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton of Ohio introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives to establish a special government program to facilitate the training of nurses; the bill was passed unanimously by both chambers of Congress, was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 15, 1943, and became effective as Public Law 74 on July 1, 1943; and

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WHEREAS, The Bolton Act of 1943 created the Cadet Nurse Corps; the Corps was administered by the United States Public Health Service and supervised by the Division of Nurse Education, which reported to the Surgeon General of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Over one thousand nursing schools throughout the

1 United States joined the Cadet Nurse Program during its
2 existence, facilitating the training of over 125,000 nurses
3 during World War II and greatly increasing the wartime supply
4 of nurses and care for American citizens on both the home and
5 war fronts; and

6 WHEREAS, By replacing certified nurses who had already
7 entered into active duty in the armed forces of the United
8 States, the Cadet Nurse Corps prevented the collapse of nursing
9 care in hospitals throughout the United States, and service
10 members returned from war to a strong health care system and
11 received necessary and quality care from Cadet Nurses; and

12 WHEREAS, Having demonstrated their skill, devotion, and
13 patriotism, members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps
14 deserve the utmost admiration and appreciation; and

15 WHEREAS, A former member of the Cadet Nurse Corps is not
16 included in the United States government's definition of what
17 constitutes a "veteran" and is not eligible to receive certain
18 veterans' benefits administered by the United States
19 Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies; and

20 WHEREAS, Recognizing former members of the Cadet Nurse
21 Corps as veterans would be an appropriate and warranted gesture
22 of commendation and gratitude to the women whose service and

1 dedication to their communities and to their nation deserves
2 such a gesture; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois General
5 Assembly urges the United States Congress to amend federal law
6 to recognize as veterans those women who served honorably
7 during World War II as members of the Cadet Nurse Corps; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Dorothy Elaine Ellis Ditzler as an expression of
11 our esteem and respect.