



SR0727

LRB103 39121 LAW 69261 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois has the sixth highest cancer mortality in the country and is among the group of states with the largest socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and rural disparities in stage at diagnosis, mortality, and outcomes in the nation; and

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WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Cancer Center (UICC) has striven to reduce and eliminate inequalities in cancer outcomes through community-driven, scientific solutions for equitable outcomes in screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship; and

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WHEREAS, UICC and partners have addressed cancer disparities for more than 30 years in a variety of ways, including with basic science to identify mechanisms of disparities, in translational science to test new treatments that can eliminate disparities, and in population science to test multilevel strategies that address structural, social, and behavioral drivers of cancer disparities in communities, federally qualified health centers, and safety net settings; and

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WHEREAS, UICC's demonstrated scientific excellence and capability for cancer health equity has always been centered

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1 in genuine, bidirectional relationships across community,  
2 healthcare, government, and academic sectors; and

3 WHEREAS, UICC is uniquely positioned to address cancer  
4 equity through outreach, practice, and science, given its  
5 Majority Minority Representation in Research, including  
6 possessing primarily minority and low-income participant  
7 representation through tissue biorepositories, clinical  
8 trials, and public health studies focused on ensuring  
9 innovations in prevention, early detection, treatment, and  
10 cures for cancer have equitable effects and access, which are  
11 made possible through quality, affordable cancer care  
12 available under the University of Illinois Hospital & Health  
13 Sciences System, from equitable, low or no-cost hereditary  
14 risk assessment and genetic services to equitable precision  
15 oncology treatments and survivorship; and

16 WHEREAS, UICC is committed to the expansion of its  
17 infrastructure throughout the State of Illinois, an  
18 infrastructure that is centered on eradicating disparities in  
19 cancer care access and outcomes, which leverages its  
20 application for National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, NCI designation is an accreditation given by the  
23 National Institutes of Health to elite U.S.-based medical and

1 laboratory institutions to demonstrate that these institutions  
2 are leaders in addressing the nation's cancer burden through  
3 research; and

4 WHEREAS, NCI-designated cancer centers provide economic  
5 benefits for their communities, with the potential of over \$1  
6 billion in economic impact, by creating thousands of middle  
7 and high-wage jobs, recruiting world-class physicians and  
8 scientists, partnering with private corporations, and  
9 attracting philanthropic donations and with the ability to  
10 secure millions of dollars in additional funding for cancer  
11 research through exclusive partnerships with the National  
12 Institutes of Health; and

13 WHEREAS, NCI-designated cancer centers offer significant  
14 benefits for communities, including federal funding that UICC  
15 would use for equity-driven, inclusive training and elevation  
16 of the next generation of diverse healthcare workers and  
17 researchers, providing education in STEM programs and  
18 mentorship opportunities, and producing a diverse, stable,  
19 future healthcare workforce focused on historically  
20 underserved communities; and

21 WHEREAS, NCI-designated cancer centers benefit from  
22 additional funding and resources to optimize infrastructure  
23 for community outreach and engagement, including multilevel

1 enhancements for cancer education of evidence-based  
2 information to communities, technical assistance for  
3 healthcare systems, including federally qualified health  
4 centers and safety net facilities to enhance the quality of  
5 affordable, accessible primary and specialty cancer care, and  
6 training for community members and leaders to be embedded in  
7 science as partners and decision-makers to characterize and  
8 eliminate cancer disparities; and

9 WHEREAS, Patients cared for by NCI-designated cancer  
10 centers have lower mortality rates, and said cancer centers  
11 are at the forefront of developing, testing, and scaling  
12 cutting-edge, novel tools, therapies, and innovations for  
13 their communities and beyond; and

14 WHEREAS, NCI designation for UICC would have the  
15 institution join the distinguished ranks of two existing  
16 NCI-designated cancer centers in the State of Illinois,  
17 Northwestern University and the University of Chicago; having  
18 three NCI-designated cancer centers, each with significant  
19 resources, would result in major cumulative growth and  
20 significant increases in the economic, educational, community,  
21 and health benefits for the State and its communities; and

22 WHEREAS, An additional NCI cancer center, unique in its  
23 focus on cancer disparities through community engagement, has

1 significant potential to reduce cancer burden by increasing  
2 access to the continuum of quality cancer care through  
3 partnerships across the State and by the implementation of a  
4 community-to-bench model, where communities guide and partner  
5 with providers and researchers to ensure science is inspired  
6 by and reflects community needs, priorities, and strengths;  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support the  
10 accreditation of the University of Illinois Cancer Center  
11 (UICC) as an additional NCI-designated cancer center in  
12 Illinois, which will be focused and driven to characterize and  
13 eliminate disparities in cancer outcomes; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 delivered to the University of Illinois Cancer Center.