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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Deverra Beverly of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly was born to Clyde Archibald and
5 Priscilla Foster; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly was a lifelong resident of the
7 ABLA Homes; she has become synonymous with her tireless efforts
8 to improve the quality of life in public housing; she often
9 went into action when a resident of public housing experienced
10 the loss of a loved-one and ensured grief-stricken families had
11 access to the ABLA Center; she was a teacher, confidant, and
12 role model for many of the professional, administrative, and
13 maintenance staff of the Chicago Housing Authority and private
14 management firms; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly's commitment to public housing
16 came out of her having lived in public housing all of her life;
17 she moved into the ABLA Homes with her family in 1943; she held
18 numerous resident leadership positions within public housing
19 such as Vice-Chair and Interim Chair of the Central Advisory
20 Council, President and Treasurer of the ABLA Homes Local
21 Advisory Council, and Commissioner of the Chicago Housing
22 Authority, appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2009; and

1 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly was the founding Chair of the
2 National Public Housing Museum; it was her vision and
3 commitment to create a world-class cultural and academic
4 institution that will forever preserve the stories of public
5 and social housing nationally and abroad; and

6 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly implemented and coordinated many
7 programs, including a summer youth employment program, a
8 resident employment program, the "Safe Passage Program", the
9 annual ABLA Day gathering and picnic, income tax assistance
10 programs for seniors, a children's after school food supplement
11 program, "The Employability Plus" program", and "The After
12 School Matters" program; she produced and recruited for the
13 motion picture "Hardball" which was filmed within the ABLA
14 community and spearheaded Mayor Daley's Annual Clean and Green
15 Program; and

16 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly was preceded in death by her
17 husband, William Pickens; her daughter, Christine Beverly; her
18 son, Eugene Beverly; and her grandson, Keith Rawls; and

19 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly is survived by her sons, Kenneth,
20 Levert, Melvin, and William; her sisters, Rosetta and Mary Lou;
21 her grandchildren, Keith, Keni, Shonda, Tamika, Jeremy, Gwen,
22 Lamont, Daryl, Yolanda, Shevonne, Levert Jr., Salina, and

1 Lakendra; a host of great-grandchildren; and a huge extended
2 family and special friends; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Deverra Beverly and extend our sincere condolences to her
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Deverra Beverly as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy and in recognition of all she has
11 contributed to the people of the ABLA Homes.