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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman of Chicago, who passed away on April 16, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman was born on August 20, 1943; he was raised in Lubbock, Texas; he attended Harvard University, where he graduated many years later due to his enthusiastic dedication to activism; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman was an influential Chicago activist who served as an advocate for civil rights and social justice causes for more than six decades; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman became involved with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee under the leadership of James Forman in Cleveland, Ohio in 1960, and the predominantly Black college student organization practiced peaceful, direct-action protests that led to civil rights victories; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman moved to Chicago in 1966, where he joined the activist organization Students for a Democratic Society, an organization whose headquarters were located on the city's west side near the Illinois Black Panther Party Headquarters on Madison Street, leading him to become

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1 acquainted with Chairman Fred Hampton; and

2 WHEREAS, Through his monumental voter registration
3 efforts, Rev. Coleman played a pivotal role in Harold
4 Washington's historic and successful campaign to become
5 Chicago's first Black mayor in 1983; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman later earned a Master of Divinity
7 from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary; he and his
8 wife, Emma Lozano, served as spiritual leaders for Adalberto
9 United Methodist Church in Humboldt Park and Lincoln United
10 Methodist Church in Pilsen for many years; their ministry
11 primarily focused on the needs of immigrants; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman leaves behind a legacy of community
13 leadership and activism on behalf of people and communities
14 fighting for fairness and access to resources and power in
15 Chicago; and

16 WHEREAS, Rev. Coleman is survived by his wife; five
17 children, Robert Rico, Anita Rico, Tanya Lozano, Joline
18 Lozano, and Roberto C. Lopez; and six grandchildren;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman and extend our sincere
2 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
3 him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Rev. Coleman as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.