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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANTHONY DELUCA

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**For More Information:**  
RepDeLuca@SBCGlobal.net

## **DeLuca Leads Effort to Designate October as Italian-American Heritage Month**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** – Continuing his longtime work to champion and recognize the contributions of Italian Americans, State Representative Anthony DeLuca, D-Chicago Heights, in collaboration with the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA) in Chicago, passed a bipartisan plan to mark every October in Illinois as Italian American Heritage Month.

“From exploration to scientific discoveries, to entertainment and culture, Italian-Americans are significant and prevalent contributors to this country’s history,” DeLuca said. “It’s fitting that we take a moment as a state to recognize the strong, positive impact our Italian American communities have had locally and to appreciate the beauty and influence this culture continues to have.”

DeLuca’s House Bill 1199 designates the month of October each year as Italian American Heritage Month to be observed throughout the state and to recognize the contributions and influence of Italians on American history, achievement, culture, and innovation.

“The Italian American community is thrilled as it has been striving to attain this designation for a long time, and thanks to the undaunted leadership of Rep. Anthony DeLuca, the contributions made by Italians to this great country will be properly recognized in the State of Illinois,” said Ron Onesti, President of the JCCIA.

The National Italian American Foundation estimates around 26 million Americans have Italian heritage, and the Chicago area has been a longtime home for a significant population of those who identify as Italian American.

“We can’t forget the struggles, stereotypes, political attacks and discrimination that too many Italian Americans have faced,” DeLuca said. “But we can also celebrate the perseverance and success stories that have made us a foundational part of this country. I am proud to call myself an Italian American, and I look forward to the governor signing this appropriate recognition.”

House Bill 1199 passed without opposition and is headed to the governor for approval.

For more information, please contact RepDeLuca@SBCGlobal.net.

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