

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Providing care and habilitative services to  
3 individuals with developmental disabilities is a fundamental  
4 responsibility of Illinois State government; and

5 WHEREAS, These vulnerable individuals depend on these  
6 services to ensure their safety, meet their basic needs, and  
7 help them develop to their fullest potential; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois has a widespread network of  
9 community-based agencies with which it contracts to provide  
10 these residential and day treatment programs to thousands of  
11 disabled individuals; and

12 WHEREAS, A critical variable in providing high quality  
13 services is having a dedicated, stable, well-trained staff;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Historically these agencies have not received  
16 sufficient State funding to provide salary levels or benefits  
17 that can attract and retain employees; and

18 WHEREAS, These low wages and inadequate benefits are  
19 unfair to the employees who provide this vital service as  
20 well as to the individuals they serve who suffer from the  
21 high employee turnover and lack of continuity of care; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the past three years insurance costs for  
23 these agencies, particularly employee health insurance costs,  
24 have increased far faster than the rate of inflation; and

25 WHEREAS, These agencies did not receive any  
26 cost-of-living increase in the previous two years, leaving  
27 many low-wage workers without a wage increase during that  
28 period; and

29 WHEREAS, In recognition of all of the above, the Illinois  
30 General Assembly, by an overwhelming vote, included a 4%

1 cost-of-living increase for these agencies serving people  
2 with developmental disabilities in the Illinois FY 04 budget;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich signed that increase into  
5 law; and

6 WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has directed  
7 all State agencies to hold back 2% of their funds in reserve;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In response to this directive, the Department of  
10 Human Services is withholding a portion of the appropriated  
11 increase from the grants to these agencies; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of other actions taken by the Department  
13 of Human Services, many of these agencies have thus far not  
14 received any increase at all; and

15 WHEREAS, Based on information currently available, DHS is  
16 planning to provide these agencies with an increase that will  
17 average approximately 2%; and

18 WHEREAS, Because funding to these agencies is reimbursed  
19 by the federal government at the rate of 50% through the  
20 Medicaid program, the actual cost to the State to fund the  
21 full 4% is less than the amount being withheld; therefore, be  
22 it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the  
25 Governor's Office of Management and Budget and the Department  
26 of Human Services to act to ensure that agencies serving the  
27 developmentally disabled through contracts with the State  
28 receive the full 4% cost-of-living increase that was mandated  
29 by action of the General Assembly for the purpose of enabling  
30 these agencies to increase direct care wages, meet rising  
31 costs, and continue to meet the vital needs of the

1 individuals they serve.