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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, In Illinois, there are 683,000 people who need  
3 treatment for a mental illness disorder and only 42.6% received  
4 care; in Illinois within the last year, approximately 267,000  
5 individuals aged 12 or older are dependent on or abused drugs,  
6 including prescription opioids, heroin, fentanyl, and other  
7 synthetic opioids, and only 11.7% received drug treatment; and

8           WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 41st in the nation for mental  
9 health service coverage provided to children, with only 45% of  
10 children receiving necessary care; according to Southern  
11 Illinois Healthcare, there is an average of only one  
12 psychiatrist available to serve 1.5 million patients; wait  
13 times to see a psychiatrist in the Illinois community mental  
14 health system can range from four to six months; and

15           WHEREAS, The Illinois Sheriff Association reports that the  
16 county jails are overflowing due to not having any where to  
17 send people with mental illness and nonviolent drug offenses;  
18 on any given day, Cook County Jail is home to 2,500 to 2,800  
19 mentally ill inmates, making it the largest mental health  
20 institution in the country; and

21           WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of  
22 Healthcare and Family Services, the lack of an adequate

1 behavioral health workforce attributes to "insufficient  
2 community behavioral health services capacity"; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the federal Health Resources and  
4 Services Administration (HRSA), Illinois has the 6th largest  
5 number of mental health professional shortage areas among  
6 states with 85 of 102 counties in Illinois having areas  
7 designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for Mental  
8 Health Services; Illinois ranks 30th in mental health workforce  
9 availability with 844 people per mental health worker compared  
10 to the national median of 752; the average length of time to  
11 fill an open behavioral health position in many rural counties  
12 can be as long as 18 months; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2011, more than 50 counties that had hospitals  
14 did not have inpatient psychiatric care and 24 counties did not  
15 have hospitals; in Illinois, there is a staggering and shameful  
16 lack of access to behavioral health care represented by a  
17 shortage of specialists, such as child and adolescent  
18 psychiatrists, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants,  
19 and other behavioral health care workers; and

20 WHEREAS, The administrative staff cost of providing  
21 community behavioral health services by community agencies has  
22 increased dramatically, by as much as two to five times, since  
23 the advent of Medicaid Managed Care; and

1           WHEREAS, Individuals, including mothers and children,  
2           suffering from mental illness or substance use disorders or  
3           both rely on care and treatment provided by a stable,  
4           well-trained direct support workforce; and

5           WHEREAS, Behavioral healthcare has moved to a new chronic  
6           care, public health model that recognizes the importance of  
7           prevention and the primacy of long-term recovery, which  
8           requires a diverse, skilled, and trained workforce that employs  
9           a range of workers, including recovery specialists, case  
10          workers, and highly trained caregivers; therefore, be it

11          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12          HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13          declare a Mental Healthcare Emergency in Illinois; and be it  
14          further

15          RESOLVED, That we urge the consideration of a comprehensive  
16          legislative package to address the community mental health and  
17          substance disorder workforce and behavioral healthcare access  
18          crisis in Illinois by the end of the 100th General Assembly;  
19          and be it further

20          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21          presented to Governor Bruce Rauner, Secretary of Human Services

1 James Dimas, Director of Healthcare and Family Services Felicia  
2 Norwood, House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate President John  
3 Cullerton, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, and Senate  
4 Minority Leader Bill Brady.