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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education is charged
3 with setting educational policies and guidelines for public and
4 private schools, preschool through grade 12, as well as
5 vocational education; and

6 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education analyzes the aims,
7 needs, and requirements of education and recommends
8 legislation to the General Assembly and Governor for the
9 benefit of the school children throughout Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education's stated mission is
11 to "Provide leadership and resources to achieve excellence
12 across all Illinois districts by engaging legislators, school
13 administrators, teachers, students, parents, families, and
14 other stakeholders in formulating and advocating for policies
15 that enhance education, empower districts, and ensure
16 equitable outcomes for all students"; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recently enacted a new
18 school funding formula with a historic amount of dollars
19 dedicated to elementary and secondary education that the State
20 Board of Education has been unable to distribute to schools
21 across the State; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to years of budget uncertainty and numerous
2 State-mandated regulations, Illinois is also currently facing
3 a devastating statewide teacher shortage that has left schools
4 across the State without qualified teachers in many classrooms;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has recently informed
7 the General Assembly that they have concerns about the cut in
8 State funding that is being provided to it for administrative
9 and employment purposes; and

10 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education recently posted on
11 its website an advertisement concerning the position of
12 "Storyteller" to serve under the Chief Education Officer; and

13 WHEREAS, The job description provides that the State Board
14 of Education plans to hire three full-time "Storytellers" at a
15 salary of approximately \$47,400 to work in either its
16 Springfield or Chicago offices; and

17 WHEREAS, These "Storytellers" will be tasked with, among
18 other duties, connecting real-world practices from schools and
19 districts around Illinois to show the impact of education
20 policy and programs; and

21 WHEREAS, "Storytellers" are also tasked with creating

1 compelling, persuasive, relevant, and accurate communications
2 content that will increase engagement with programmatic goals
3 and build community support for ISBE programs; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 believe this is not the appropriate time for the State Board of
7 Education to hire three public relations professionals to serve
8 as "Storytellers"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we believe these tax dollars would be of
10 better use in the classroom helping educate the millions of
11 children that rely on a quality public education in this State;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
14 focus its resources and energy on distributing evidence-based
15 funding on a timely basis rather than hiring additional
16 employees, in an already cash-strapped State agency, to travel
17 the State of Illinois promoting a public relations campaign;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 delivered to State Board of Education Chairman James Meeks and
21 State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Smith.