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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, It is a truly harrowing time in our society today;  
3 it is a period, unfortunately, marked by unconscionable  
4 violence that has pervaded into many of our communities and  
5 affected the lives of our most vulnerable: our children; the  
6 unthinkable tragedy that took place on February 14, 2018 in  
7 Parkland, Florida is just the latest episode in a heart-rending  
8 narrative that is becoming an entirely unacceptable new normal;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The violence has become a quotidian phenomenon and  
11 one that is all too familiar; this violence that has taken  
12 place in recent years, months, and yet again reappeared last  
13 week in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, cannot continue  
14 to be left unchallenged; schoolchildren have become both  
15 exposed to these stories in the news and victims to these  
16 senseless acts that have claimed the lives of so many innocent  
17 youths and scarred the lives of many more; and

18           WHEREAS, It is a regretful reality to comprehend, but it is  
19 one that we have to face and one that necessarily forces us to  
20 do what we can to improve school security; while there is no  
21 one panacea to the wide-array of issues that have led to these  
22 atrocities, and various debates can be had between people of  
23 different ideologies, beliefs, and political affiliations on

1 the merits of each proposed solution, it is in the best  
2 interest of our children that we work together to ensure that  
3 everything is done to better prepare our schools to respond  
4 effectively in the event that such calamity were to occur in  
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, It is with this sentiment in mind that the  
7 Illinois General Assembly should encourage school districts  
8 and individual schools to explore and evaluate active shooter  
9 response training programs that will help reduce the loss of  
10 life; numerous schools here in Illinois and across the country  
11 have already taken appropriate steps or are in the process of  
12 developing such training strategies; and

13 WHEREAS, One such training program that has proven  
14 successful and has been implemented by some Illinois school  
15 districts is the Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE)  
16 program; the ALICE training program has been developed through  
17 the ALICE Training Institute and was created by a law  
18 enforcement officer who set out to improve the limited,  
19 traditional protocol employed by most schools, i.e., (i) alert  
20 the school of the situation, (ii) have teachers get all  
21 students in a classroom and lock the door and shut the lights,  
22 and (iii) sit patiently in the corner of the room waiting for  
23 law enforcement officers to arrive; the ALICE training program,  
24 however, departs from this model and instead focuses on

1 option-based, proactive survival strategies that provide  
2 individuals trapped in an active shooter situation with diverse  
3 tools necessary to help save lives; and

4 WHEREAS, The system devised by the ALICE Training Institute  
5 focuses on being alert, knowing how to properly assess the  
6 situation, taking precautions when in lockdown, devising  
7 communication strategies that help effectively inform others  
8 of where the assailant is located in the building, using  
9 dynamic techniques that help mitigate the danger posed by the  
10 shooter, and, finally, explaining the best ways and times to  
11 evacuate the danger areas; the ALICE training model is  
12 supported by law enforcement and first responders nationwide as  
13 it helps bolster the protections and safety of the innocent  
14 throughout the ordeal, and especially during the time that it  
15 takes for law enforcement to respond to the call and take  
16 control of the situation - a period where every minute and  
17 second matters and astute action of victims can help maximize  
18 the safety of others; and

19 WHEREAS, The ALICE Training Institute has offered its  
20 services in all 50 states, trained over one million individuals  
21 (in both the public and private sectors), and is currently used  
22 in over 4,200 K-12 schools and nearly 1,000 higher education  
23 institutions; and

1           WHEREAS, Training programs like ALICE deserve to be  
2 evaluated and incorporated into our schools with urgent haste  
3 as we continue to adapt to the new threats of violence that  
4 everyday appear closer to home; and

5           WHEREAS, Collaboration between school and local law  
6 enforcement officials in the implementation of updated active  
7 shooter response training is vital to the protection of both  
8 students and staff in Illinois schools; and

9           WHEREAS, The interest in our children's future is of  
10 paramount importance and, therefore, the Illinois General  
11 Assembly should stand at the ready to explore all of the best  
12 practices necessary to ensure the safety of our children and  
13 look to promote the implementation of programs like ALICE that  
14 not only improve safety but help foster a more open  
15 communication line between parents, teachers, and school  
16 administrators; and

17           WHEREAS, In a time where polarization exists and seems to  
18 dominate the political sphere, this is an issue that neither  
19 invites nor seeks to create controversy; the well-being and  
20 protection of our children demands that we take quick action on  
21 this matter in hopes of preventing this unspeakable violence  
22 from claiming any more innocent lives; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 strongly encourage every school district in the State of  
4 Illinois and the heads of each school in this State, in  
5 collaboration with local law enforcement, to begin exploring  
6 and implementing the necessary modern response training  
7 programs and innovative procedures that are designed to help  
8 prevent the loss of life in the event of an on-campus  
9 emergency; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
11 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois State Board of  
12 Education, the Office of the Governor of Illinois, and the  
13 Illinois General Assembly so that any action necessary of the  
14 State may be extended to school districts across Illinois so  
15 that we may better protect the lives of teachers,  
16 administrators, and students.