



HR1025

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Because Illinois has a flat income tax, low and middle-class families disproportionately share the burden of funding the State's responsibilities; the combined effect of all state and local taxes causes hardworking people with lower incomes and struggling small business owners to pay a higher portion of their income in taxes than wealthy households and large corporations; a graduated income tax is a more fair and progressive way for the State to generate revenue; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Illinois has one of the most regressive tax structures in the country, as households in the bottom 20% of annual income pay 13.28% of their income in taxes, while those in the top 1% pay only 6.81%; and

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WHEREAS, A progressive income tax will stimulate small business growth; a smaller tax burden will be placed upon small businesses, thereby giving them the additional resources needed to reinvest in their businesses and ultimately increase their net income, providing further stimulus for small business formation and growth; and

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WHEREAS, A progressive income tax will create additional macroeconomic benefits for the State, as Illinoisans with

1 smaller tax burdens find themselves with additional purchasing
2 power; this translates into higher revenues for Illinois
3 businesses and more robust economic performance for the State
4 as a whole; and

5 WHEREAS, Of the 41 states in the country with an income
6 tax, 33 have progressive rate structures, including most of the
7 states that border Illinois - Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and
8 Wisconsin; furthermore, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri
9 all have locally-imposed income taxes; and

10 WHEREAS, Opposition to a progressive income tax fails to
11 recognize the ability to reduce the tax burden for the vast
12 majority of taxpayers; this opposition stems from a desire to
13 protect the status quo for the wealthiest members of society;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, House Resolution 975 of the 100th General Assembly
16 provides examples of punitive tax rate structures designed to
17 derail discussions about a fair and progressive income tax;
18 such tactics are commonly used by Republican politicians to
19 protect the ultra-wealthy from paying their fair share; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is the 6th most populous
21 state in the country; it is home to world-class cities,
22 enriched communities, renowned tourist destinations, and is a

1 leader in many areas including transportation, technology,
2 finance, manufacturing, agriculture, and, most importantly,
3 access to an unrivaled labor force; and

4 WHEREAS, There are many positive aspects of this State that
5 should be applauded and highlighted; unfortunately, we find
6 ourselves at a true crossroads; years without a full state
7 budget, forced upon Illinoisans by Governor Rauner, have
8 resulted in uncertainty and hardships for the citizens and
9 businesses of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, In spite of the recent, successful bipartisan
11 efforts to enact a full state budget for Fiscal Year 2018,
12 ending the worst budget crisis in the history of Illinois, the
13 State still faces significant financial challenges that cause
14 continued uncertainty regarding the State's ability to provide
15 for the services upon which Illinoisans rely; and

16 WHEREAS, Things must change for the better through fiscally
17 responsible and sustainable initiatives that foster economic
18 growth and cease to be an over-encumbrance on Illinois
19 taxpayers; this is why proposals such as those calling for a
20 progressive income tax to be adopted in this State must be
21 granted due consideration as a means of reducing the tax burden
22 on low and middle-income families while providing resources for
23 education, infrastructure, supports for our most vulnerable

1 citizens, and other core responsibilities; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 stand united in support of a fair and progressive income tax
5 that must reduce taxes on low and middle-income families while
6 raising taxes on the wealthiest Illinoisans; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 delivered to each member of the Illinois General Assembly and
9 the Office of the Governor as a testament to our unwavering
10 commitment to improving the day-to-day lives of families across
11 this great State.