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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is the 6th most populous state in the country; it is home to world-class cities, enriched communities, and renowned tourist destinations and is a leader in many areas, including transportation, technology, finance, manufacturing, agriculture, and, most importantly, access to an unrivaled labor force; and

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WHEREAS, There are many positive aspects of this State that should be applauded and highlighted, but, unfortunately, we find ourselves at a true crossroads; decades of fiscal irresponsibility and political malfeasance have resulted in an undesirable state of affairs that has plagued and will continue to loom over the Land of Lincoln; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois has to move towards a future that seeks and expects to be competitive in all sectors; that is what every State across America is doing in order to embolden their residents and, furthermore, keep and attract the best and brightest employees and employers; and

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WHEREAS, With this reality in mind, Illinois lawmakers, now more than ever, must act in order to ensure that the best days for Illinoisans are ahead of us; the time of kicking the proverbial can down the road is over, and the time of inaction

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1 has passed and is no longer a convenient option; Illinois must  
2 unequivocally reinforce the notion not only to every resident  
3 but to any person that may wish to come to the Prairie State  
4 that Illinois is truly forward-looking; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently, there is no greater threat to  
6 Illinoisans than that of continuing down our current  
7 trajectory; through years of laxity, unchecked spending, and  
8 ever-growing means of over-taxation, Illinois residents are  
9 being subjected to incredible pressures to leave their homes  
10 and relocate elsewhere; and

11 WHEREAS, Illinois has among some of the highest tax burdens  
12 of any state not only in the Midwest but in the country;  
13 Illinois has one of the highest average property tax burdens in  
14 the United States; Illinois residents are charged one of the  
15 highest average combined State and local sales taxes; if this  
16 were not enough, Illinois has estate, corporate franchise, and  
17 numerous other State and local taxes that make taxpayers  
18 reasonably question what Springfield is doing right; and

19 WHEREAS, To continue on this senseless path of  
20 overburdening, debilitating propositions of increased taxation  
21 and reckless spending is simply unconscionable, a path which  
22 now appears to include a new unfair tax on Illinois taxpayers;  
23 proponents of a graduated income tax offer that this is a

1 "fair" treatment of taxpayers, yet this is far from the truth;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that states with graduated  
4 income taxes impose an increased burden on the middle-class;  
5 instead of creating fairness, this venture squeezes the tax  
6 base; and

7 WHEREAS, A graduated income tax in Illinois would only  
8 create added burdens and dissuade economic prosperity, two  
9 unintended consequences that proponents of enacting such a tax  
10 system fail to mention; and

11 WHEREAS, National organizations, such as the Hoover  
12 Institution, have outlined the gross inadequacies of the  
13 graduated income tax system; while it may appear to provide  
14 equity, the so-called progressive income tax punishes  
15 hard-working, middle-class families and small businesses that  
16 make up the majority of the tax base; there is nothing fair in  
17 making average Illinoisans pay for the shortcomings of a  
18 legislature that has created a tax-and-spend paradigm that is  
19 unsustainable; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to approximately 1.2 million  
21 small businesses, which, in turn, employ 2.5 million persons;  
22 small businesses, often structured as pass-through entities,

1 will inevitably be further targets of this so-called  
2 progressive tax, becoming yet another group that proponents  
3 have failed to consider in their purported call for fairness;  
4 for these small businesses and the millions of workers they  
5 employ, there can be no greater disincentive to continue  
6 operating in Illinois than enacting yet another anti-business  
7 measure; and

8 WHEREAS, During the 2018 campaign cycle, blanket,  
9 unsubstantiated promises were made to Illinoisans across this  
10 State; assurances were offered from ardent proponents that this  
11 so-called progressive move would lead to tax savings, without  
12 once providing substantive proposals; however, the campaign  
13 speeches are over; and

14 WHEREAS, It is not enough to propose living in a  
15 make-believe reality where promises can be made to spend the  
16 peoples' money with no consideration given to the very real  
17 consequences that will inevitably come back to haunt us; the  
18 unbridled desire for revenue has, without fail, forced  
19 Illinoisans across the State to pay for the reckless spending  
20 plans of those in power; and

21 WHEREAS, We must vociferously fight against tax-and-spend  
22 policies of the past; this General Assembly presents an  
23 opportunity to work collaboratively and on a bipartisan basis

1 to (i) balance the budget, (ii) make sure government services  
2 are efficient and effective, and (iii) prevent any new and  
3 unnecessary taxes; and

4 WHEREAS, A move by the General Assembly to amend the  
5 constitution to impose a graduated income tax would mean  
6 turning our backs on the residents of this State and the spirit  
7 of bipartisanship; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, it is an almost preconceived maxim in  
9 Illinois that the need for new revenue and the wanton lack of  
10 checks on spending will always result in higher and new taxes  
11 for everyone; the time has come to end this unfortunate and  
12 vicious cycle; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we stand united in opposition to any measure that would allow  
16 the creation of a graduated income tax on Illinois residents;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to each member of the Illinois General Assembly and  
20 the Office of the Governor as a testament to our unwavering  
21 commitment to improving the day-to-day lives of families across  
22 this great State.