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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Our nation's future and well-being rely on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship, and lifelong learning; and

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WHEREAS, Youth safety is of the utmost importance in schools and communities; and

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WHEREAS, The academic success of students is affected by events that occur within and outside of school; and

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WHEREAS, There is a growing concern regarding youth violence and safety within our schools and communities, including a most urgent and very present concern regarding gun violence in the south suburban area, with all three school districts in the south suburban area being affected by recent gun violence and gang behavior; and

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WHEREAS, Schools serve as portals for opportunities to learn life skills, appropriate behavior, and how to make positive choices; and

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WHEREAS, Educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information that help

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1 students and families, including assistance with mental,  
2 emotional, and physical health; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we urge the creation of a South Suburban Youth Coalition and  
6 Violence Prevention Task Force in collaboration with  
7 stakeholders from the represented communities as a concrete  
8 means of helping to address the growing concern of youth  
9 violence affecting the south suburban communities and schools  
10 connected with Bloom Township High School District 206,  
11 Crete-Monee Community Unit School District 201U, and Rich  
12 Township High School District 227; the school districts served  
13 by this coalition shall include Bloom Township High School  
14 District 206, Brookwood School District 167, Community  
15 Consolidated Schools District 168, Ford Heights School  
16 District 169, Chicago Heights School District 170, Steger  
17 School District 194, Cree-Monee Community Unit School District  
18 201U, Rich Township High School District 227, Elementary School  
19 District 159, Country Club Hills School District 160, Matteson  
20 School District 162, and Park Forest-Chicago Heights School  
21 District 163; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That each district is strongly urged to provide  
23 education on the adverse and detrimental effects of student  
24 violence in our schools and communities by using existing

1 resources and staff, including teachers, deans, social  
2 workers, and psychologists; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That each district is strongly urged to create a  
4 proactive school district policy that addresses the growing  
5 issue of youth violence and focuses on problem-solving skills  
6 and conflict and dispute resolution skills for students in  
7 grades Pre-K through 12 and implements programs and strategies  
8 that encourage character building and are in alignment with the  
9 Illinois State Social and Emotional Learning Standards; the  
10 policy should provide for the professional development of  
11 teachers, administrators, support staff, board members, and  
12 parents concerning student violence within school, youth  
13 violence in the community, conflict and dispute resolution, and  
14 de-escalation tactics; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That each district is urged to create proactive  
16 solutions to student violence within schools, including the use  
17 of peer mediation, school counseling, incident reporting, and  
18 school assemblies that address student-to-student violence,  
19 gun violence, and overall school safety; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That each district is urged to partner with the  
21 South Suburban Youth Coalition and Violence Prevention Task  
22 Force and applicable stakeholders, including law enforcement  
23 agencies, municipal leaders, and youth organizations, to

1 develop solutions to eliminate youth violence in schools and  
2 communities; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That each district is urged to post this  
4 resolution on every school site, distribute it to district  
5 staff, students, and parents, and have it read and voted upon  
6 at the most immediately available school board meeting and be  
7 translated into all languages currently spoken by students and  
8 parents within the south suburban area; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to the superintendent of Bloom Township High School  
11 District 206, the superintendent of Crete-Monee Community Unit  
12 School District 201U, the superintendent of Rich Township High  
13 School District 227, the superintendent of Brookwood School  
14 District 167, the superintendent of Community Consolidated  
15 Schools District 168, the superintendent of Ford Heights School  
16 District 169, the superintendent of Chicago Heights School  
17 District 170, the superintendent of Steger School District 194,  
18 the superintendent of Elementary School District 159, the  
19 superintendent of County Club Hills School District 160, the  
20 superintendent of Matteson School District 162, and the  
21 superintendent of Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District  
22 163.