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1   HOUSE RESOLUTION

2   WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has seen a decline in the
3   number of residents with college degrees that would serve as a
4   basis for improving the economic conditions and subsequent
5   quality of life improvements for the State; and

6   WHEREAS, This has led to a loss of overall population in
7   the State and a skills gap that has not been addressed as a top
8   priority, leading to increasing burdens on State and local
9   government to meet the needs of the residents; and

10   WHEREAS, Executive Order 2019-03, An Action Agenda for
11   Workforce Development and Job Creation, signed by Gov. JB
12   Pritzker, directs Illinois' state agencies to review current
13   and potential industries targeted for economic growth and
14   recommend how workforce resources for disenfranchised
15   populations may be improved in communities throughout
16   Illinois; and

17   WHEREAS, The four Illinois state agencies involved in
18   implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
19   Act, the Departments of Commerce & Economic Opportunity,
20   Employment Security, and Human Services and the Illinois
21   Community College Board, and representatives of the Illinois
22   Workforce Innovation Board have prepared an agenda that will

1   create opportunities for all Illinoisans; and

2   WHEREAS, Those agencies presented a report, An Action
3   Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation, that
4   includes evidence-based practices, promising innovations, and
5   collaborative input from leaders across the State; its goal is
6   to ensure that businesses, individuals, and communities have
7   the opportunity to prosper and contribute to the State's
8   economic growth, specifically attracting and retaining young
9   people to Illinois; and

10   WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau asserts that 93 of 102
11   counties in Illinois have lost populations since 2010; and

12   WHEREAS, Since the end of the Great Recession in 2011, the
13   prime working-age population in Illinois has declined five
14   percent while the U.S. prime working-age population has grown
15   1.4 percent; and

16   WHEREAS, In collaboration with the State of Illinois,
17   Community Foundations of Illinois have focused their efforts on
18   increasing talent retention and regional prosperity and
19   combatting deteriorating and financially distressed
20   communities by creating a new scholarship that will lessen the
21   burdens of government by preventing further erosion of the
22   State's economic base by recruiting and retaining college

1   educated employees to live and work in the State; and

2   WHEREAS, With this new scholarship, the Community
3   Foundations of Illinois seek to lessen the burdens of
4   government and improve the quality of life and economic
5   conditions of the residents of the State, which is consistent
6   with the goals of Executive Order 2019-03; it will be a vital
7   part of the State's effort to expand talent retention,
8   stimulate greater investments in our communities, and improve
9   our economic outlook; and

10   WHEREAS, The new scholarship will support the efforts of
11   local partners to attract young professionals with expertise in
12   Illinois trades, such as agribusiness and food processing,
13   biotechnology, energy, healthcare, professional services,
14   information technology, financial activities, leisure,
15   hospitality, and transportation, distribution, and logistics;
16   therefore, be it

17   RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18   HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19   we urge the Community Foundations of Illinois to enter into a
20   joint effort with the State of Illinois to administer
21   post-graduation scholarship programs, which are designed to
22   lessen the burdens of government by improving income levels,
23   decreasing unemployment rates, increasing household incomes,

1 and increasing the percentage of residents with college degrees

2 living and working in financially distressed areas in the State

3 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the individual

4 Community Foundations and Executive Order 2019-03.