



HR0049

LRB102 10046 MST 15366 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives call upon the public universities in Illinois
4 to study the usefulness and fairness of standardized tests in
5 their admission processes; and

6 WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of analyzing the use of
7 standardized testing in higher education is to move to a
8 test-optional admittance process; and

9 WHEREAS, There are clear benefits to standardized testing
10 merely being an optional step in the admission process, one of
11 which is increased diversity; low income students typically
12 score lower than their more affluent peers, putting them at a
13 disadvantage in the admissions process; in 2016, the average
14 ACT composite score for a high-income student was 23.6, while
15 the average composite score for low income students was 19.5;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, After the University of Chicago made the decision
18 to go test-optional, it reported record enrollments of
19 first-generation, low-income, and rural students; and

20 WHEREAS, Public universities in Illinois making the choice
21 to go test-optional would not be unique; currently, one in

1 four institutions of higher education no longer requires a
2 standardized test score for admittance, and, in the last year
3 alone, 41 schools have eliminated their standardized testing
4 requirement; and

5 WHEREAS, A university moving to a test-optional admittance
6 process is not at all synonymous with a university abandoning
7 its prestige, as the standards for admittance would simply be
8 shifted to the students' GPA, extracurricular activities, and
9 references; a standardized test is not the only way to measure
10 a student's potential; the choice to eliminate mandatory
11 standardized testing from admittance processes can lead to a
12 larger applicant pool for universities, thus creating a
13 stronger student body; and

14 WHEREAS, The test-optional switch will be extremely
15 beneficial to the low-income students of Illinois who have
16 hopes of attending one of the State's exceptional public
17 universities; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we urge the public universities in Illinois to examine the use
21 of standardized testing in their admissions processes; and be
22 it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to all the public universities in Illinois.