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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a responsibility to help crime victims access justice, assistance, and the support they need to heal; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Crime Victims' Voices: The First-Ever Survey of Illinois Victims' Views on Safety and Justice found that crime is a traumatic experience for nearly everyone who has been a victim and that nearly seven out of 10 crime victims experience traumatic symptoms across demographic characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that people who are repeatedly victimized are more likely to face mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and symptoms related to post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic trauma; and

WHEREAS, Victims living in communities experiencing concentrated crime are more likely to suffer from greater levels of chronic trauma than those who do not, and national data indicates that young adults, people with low incomes, and residents of urban areas experience the highest rates of victimization; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that people under the age of 30

1 are 24 percent more likely to be victims of violent crime and  
2 41 percent more likely to be victims of serious violent crime;  
3 similarly, people with incomes of less than \$25,000 per year  
4 are 25 percent more likely to be victims of violent crime and  
5 46 percent more likely to be victims of serious violent crime;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 35 million children have experienced one  
8 or more types of childhood adversity, and approximately 72% of  
9 children and youth in the United States will have experienced  
10 at least one stressful event (e.g., witnessing or being a  
11 victim of violence, experiencing sexual, physical, or  
12 emotional abuse, suffering a serious injury or medical  
13 condition, or the death of a parent or sibling) before the age  
14 of 18; and

15 WHEREAS, These adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can be  
16 traumatizing and, if not recognized and treated, can affect  
17 health across the life span and, in some cases, result in a  
18 shortened life span; and

19 WHEREAS, A growing body of research demonstrates that  
20 untreated trauma, especially among those who experience repeat  
21 victimization, can contribute to substance abuse, mental  
22 health issues, housing instability, and other problems that  
23 increase risky behaviors and lead to further victimization or

1 crime itself; and

2 WHEREAS, Trauma-informed care has been promoted and  
3 established in communities across the country on a bipartisan  
4 basis, including in the states of California, Florida,  
5 Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and  
6 Wisconsin; and

7 WHEREAS, Numerous federal agencies have integrated  
8 trauma-informed approaches into their programs and grants,  
9 which should be leveraged by the State of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Infants, children, and youth and their families  
11 who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma,  
12 including those who are low-income, homeless, involved with  
13 the child welfare system, involved in the juvenile or adult  
14 justice system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of  
15 dropping out of an educational institution and live in a  
16 community that has faced acute or long-term exposure to  
17 substantial discrimination, historical oppression,  
18 intergenerational poverty, a high rate of violence or drug  
19 overdose deaths, should have an opportunity for improved  
20 outcomes; this means increasing access to greater  
21 opportunities to meet educational, employment, health,  
22 developmental, community reentry, permanency from foster care,  
23 or other key goals; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 an urgent and significant need exists to discuss and evaluate  
4 public policies affecting trauma and social determinants of  
5 health; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance, effectiveness,  
7 and need for trauma-informed care among existing programs and  
8 agencies in the State of Illinois; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That we express our support for the  
10 establishment of this effort and urge the citizens of this  
11 State to become more aware of trauma and its effects on  
12 communities across Illinois; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 delivered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney  
15 General.