



HR0105

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution
3 provides that "A fundamental goal of the People of the State is
4 the educational development of all persons to the limits of
5 their capacities."; the Section also provides that "The State
6 shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public
7 educational institutions and services." and that "The State
8 has the primary responsibility for financing the system of
9 public education."; and

10 WHEREAS, The economic competitiveness of the United States
11 and Illinois in the global economy requires a well-educated
12 workforce; and

13 WHEREAS, Education is more important than ever because it
14 is an essential step to entering and remaining in the middle
15 class; and

16 WHEREAS, High school dropouts are more than twice as
17 likely to be unemployed and three times as likely to receive
18 welfare assistance; nationally, this costs billions of dollars
19 to government-funded assistance programs annually; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau estimates that a
21 person with a high school diploma will earn \$9,634 more per

1 year than someone without a high school diploma; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2014, people without a high school diploma had
3 a 9% unemployment rate, compared to a 6% rate for those with a
4 high school diploma; and

5 WHEREAS, A well-educated citizenry improves the business
6 climate by providing highly skilled workers that employers
7 need; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a Georgetown University study, the
9 United States economy will face a shortage of five million
10 workers with the necessary education and training by 2020; and

11 WHEREAS, The majority of jobs that will be created will
12 require some sort of education and training after high school;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Males with a college education live an average of
15 8 years longer than those without a high school diploma, while
16 females with a college education lived an average of 6 years
17 longer; males with a college education are also 55% more
18 likely to vote than those without a high school diploma, and
19 females with a college education are 40% more likely to vote
20 than those without a high school diploma; a one-year increase
21 in median education level is associated with a more than 13%

1 increase in political primary turnouts; and

2 WHEREAS, Between 1987 and 2007, the United States has
3 increased spending on incarceration by 127%, compared with a
4 21% increase in funding for education during the same time
5 period; and

6 WHEREAS, Forty-one percent of all prisoners have not
7 completed high school, compared to 18% of the general adult
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, The annual cost of incarcerating an individual is
10 roughly \$32,000, while the annual cost of educating a student
11 is about \$11,000; a 5% increase in male graduation rates
12 nationally would save an estimated \$5 billion annually in
13 crime-related expenses; and

14 WHEREAS, Investment in education is shown to prevent
15 violence by providing opportunities and knowledge that create
16 a higher quality life; and

17 WHEREAS, The average annual public health cost is an
18 estimated \$2,700 per high school dropout, \$1,000 per high
19 school graduate, and \$170 per college graduate; it is
20 estimated that if every high school dropout graduated, the
21 national savings in public health costs would exceed \$40

1 billion annually; and

2 WHEREAS, The foundation level is the statutorily set
3 minimum per-pupil funding necessary to adequately educate
4 public K-12 students in Illinois through a combination of
5 State and local resources; the foundation level has remained
6 at \$6,119 since the 2009-2010 school year, despite rising
7 costs of education; and

8 WHEREAS, The Education Funding Advisory Board recommended
9 that the foundation level be changed to \$9,204 for Fiscal Year
10 2016 to adequately fund the educational needs of students; and

11 WHEREAS, Illinois currently ranks last in state share of
12 P-12 education funding; and

13 WHEREAS, Improved education and more stable employment
14 greatly increases tax revenue, returning at least seven
15 dollars for every dollar invested in pre-kindergarten
16 education; and

17 WHEREAS, A high quality education system should be the
18 identity and legacy that we establish for Illinois and the
19 United States; in addition, education should be the number one
20 budget priority for the State of Illinois; 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 we acknowledge the importance of having a high quality
4 education system and all of the societal benefits that go
5 along with it; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we encourage the General Assembly to make
7 education a priority in the budget for the State of Illinois
8 and to fully fund elementary and secondary education; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That we encourage the business community to
11 advocate for a high quality education system in Illinois,
12 which will benefit the business climate as well as the
13 citizens of Illinois; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we encourage the General Assembly to
15 continue to strive to create an adequately funded and high
16 quality education system for the benefit of all citizens.