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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Under Illinois constitutional law, the individual income tax is levied upon incomes at a flat, non-graduated rate; this flat rate is explicitly specified by subsection (a) of Section 3 of Article IX of the Constitution of Illinois; the Constitution, with its flat-rate income tax language, was ratified by the voters in November 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Given an opportunity to reopen the question in November 2020, the people of Illinois renewed their commitment to a single State individual income tax levied at a flat rate; when presented with a proposed constitutional amendment to strike this language and to grant the politicians of Illinois the right to enact multiple income tax rates to be levied upon multiple levels of income, the proposed amendment was resoundingly defeated; and

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WHEREAS, As evidenced by the November 2020 voting numbers on the Graduated Income Tax Amendment, with passage requiring either (i) a simple majority of all of those casting ballots in the overall election or (ii) a three-fifths majority of those voting on the constitutional question, the proposed amendment fell far short in both categories, with more than 3.0 million "no" votes cast against the measure; and

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1 WHEREAS, The 3,059,411 "no" votes cast against the
2 proposed constitutional amendment were a majority (53.3%) of
3 the votes cast on the question and were also a majority (50.2%)
4 of the total votes cast in the November 2020 election as a
5 whole; and

6 WHEREAS, Enough "no" votes were cast on the proposed
7 constitutional amendment that it fell more than 360,000 votes
8 short of a simple majority and more than 760,000 votes short of
9 a three-fifths majority of those voting on the question; and

10 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois have spoken with dignity
11 and finality on the question of what form the individual
12 income tax should take in Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the expressed constitutional command of
14 the people of Illinois, re-expressed as recently as November
15 2020, some voices continue to speak in favor of reopening this
16 question yet again; and

17 WHEREAS, As on every previous occasion this question has
18 arisen, the abolition of the constitutional flat-rate law and
19 its erasure from the income tax code of Illinois would make it
20 easier for politicians to enact multiple income tax rates upon
21 multiple levels of income earned by the working people of
22 Illinois and to spend this money however they want; and

1 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois do not want a Graduated
2 Income Tax; the negative effects upon the lives of Illinoisans
3 by reopening this issue would far outweigh whatever benefits
4 have been promised to them by those who call for the
5 reconsideration of such a tax; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we oppose a graduated income tax law in Illinois, whether it is
9 called a "graduated tax", a "progressive tax", a "fair tax",
10 or any other euphemism its supporters wish to use to present it
11 to the voters and engender support; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we oppose the reconsideration by the
13 Illinois General Assembly of any constitutional measure
14 intended to yet again reopen the flat-rate income tax language
15 of subsection (a) of Section 3 of Article IX of the
16 Constitution of Illinois; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to Governor JB Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, and
19 President Don Harmon.