



HR0471

LRB102 20080 ECR 28927 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois has a long history of supporting
3 nonpublic elementary and secondary schools; and

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WHEREAS, In 2017, the General Assembly created the Invest
5 in Kids Act to provide low-income students with scholarship
6 monies to attend nonpublic schools due in large part to the
7 strong academic prowess of nonpublic schools; and

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WHEREAS, Nonpublic schools also have a long tradition of
9 competing in elementary and high school athletics often as
10 strong contenders for state championships in a variety of
11 sports; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois School Code allows nonpublic schools
13 to voluntarily register with the Illinois State Board of
14 Education; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois School Code also allows nonpublic
16 schools to seek recognition status through the Illinois State
17 Board of Education; doing so shows parents and students that a
18 particular nonpublic school meets the academic and safety
19 standards of public schools in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, This voluntary registration and recognition

1 status has helped to keep nonpublic schools across Illinois as
2 independent entities for several years; and

3 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor JB
4 Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education have sought
5 several times to supersede the tradition of nonpublic
6 education in Illinois by placing several COVID-related
7 mandates onto nonpublic schools; and

8 WHEREAS, As of September 10, 2021, the Illinois State
9 Board of Education has removed the recognition status of 15
10 nonpublic schools for failing to abide by Governor Pritzker's
11 mask mandate at schools; and

12 WHEREAS, The governing boards of nonpublic schools should
13 have the right to make decisions in the best interest of their
14 students and staff as they see fit; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we support nonpublic school autonomy and the voluntary process
18 that allows nonpublic schools to seek registration and
19 recognition with the Illinois State Board of Education; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, that we urge Governor JB Pritzker and the

1 Illinois State Board of Education to support nonpublic school
2 autonomy when it comes to making decisions for their schools,
3 including decisions related to COVID-19; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 delivered to Governor JB Pritzker and State Superintendent Dr.
6 Carmen Ayala.