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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a novel,  
3 severe, acute illness, has rapidly spread throughout Illinois,  
4 resulting in unnecessary loss of life, loss of economic  
5 stability, increasing behavioral health struggles, and new  
6 trauma exposure for every race, age, gender, and ethnicity;  
7 this has resulted in an increasing public health disaster and  
8 acceleration of the current legal, educational, health, and  
9 social systems volatility, which brings the need for  
10 healthcare and human services transformation for every  
11 individual in Illinois; and

12           WHEREAS, Dysfunction of neurological, endocrine, and other  
13 polyvagal mechanisms in the body can lead to chronic and  
14 severe physical and mental illness with severe associated  
15 cost; the effects of trauma exposures on humans are detailed  
16 in research over the last two decades from the evolving  
17 sciences of neuroscience, molecular biology, public health,  
18 genomics, and epigenetics, revealing that experiences such as  
19 a community trauma, individual trauma, and pandemic trauma  
20 result in significant impacts at the micro, meso, and macro  
21 health system levels; and

22           WHEREAS, The vast short term impact of COVID-19 has led to  
23 a surge in suicides, overdoses on drugs and alcohol, abuse,

1 neglect, and general anxiety and depression; the collateral  
2 damage will continue to impact the daily living and  
3 functionality of individuals due to the increasing isolation  
4 and loneliness being experienced; beyond facing the barriers  
5 present pre-pandemic, individuals are now facing magnified  
6 obstacles related to access to care and unprecedented  
7 interruptions to existing care for existing mental illness; it  
8 is now vital for mental health and wellness to be viewed as a  
9 political priority due to its direct link to social injustice,  
10 poverty, systemic discrimination, and racism; and

11 WHEREAS, The continued short-term impact of COVID-19 has  
12 been well discussed; the long-term impact, while it may be  
13 able to be predicted, is still not fully known and  
14 comprehended; by proactively anticipating, applying  
15 evidence-based knowledge, and listening closely to the stories  
16 of every individual in Illinois, we understand that public  
17 health must take a capacity building and foundational approach  
18 to the development, dissemination, and support of programs  
19 that have been demonstrated or can lead the way to addressing  
20 these long-term impacts, including addressing the growing  
21 mental and physical health needs and epigenetic impact; and

22 WHEREAS, Covid-19 not only effects society at a cellular  
23 level but also leads to social and economic devastation,  
24 including the impact it has had on the basic safety and

1 security needs of Illinois families and also the ability to  
2 achieve adequate food, water, warmth, and rest, as well as  
3 inequality in meeting children's individual educational needs  
4 for building the hope and strength of our future; at a time  
5 when the struggles for individuals in Illinois are escalating  
6 from the loss of power and ability to care for themselves and  
7 their families, it is essential to address the social, mental,  
8 physical, financial, and educational, short-term and long-term  
9 costs of this pandemic, with special attention paid to trauma  
10 caused on micro, meso, and macro level systems; it is no longer  
11 acceptable to only embrace resilience but defeat the  
12 malignancy of history and man-made odds; and

13 WHEREAS, It is necessary, now more than ever, that every  
14 individual in Illinois has a fair and just opportunity to be  
15 healthy, not only physically but also mentally and  
16 emotionally; it is vital to recognize the overwhelming impact  
17 of the current pandemic situation and the resulting overall  
18 trauma on our communities, families, State, economy, and  
19 health and mental well-being; healing in all policies and  
20 community healing will only occur when we acknowledge the  
21 harms done to individuals in Illinois, especially those of  
22 color; understanding, supporting, and recognizing that the  
23 siloed approach to policy and support of the past no longer  
24 fits into our present and that committing to further health  
25 equality, social justice, and sustainable strengthening of the

1 public health system is imperative for healing of every  
2 individual in Illinois and our State as a whole; and

3 WHEREAS, Other states, such as Wisconsin, California,  
4 Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington,  
5 have focused on bipartisan efforts to build trauma-informed  
6 states; Illinois has taken steps to begin to establish racial,  
7 justice, and children healing initiatives; the future of  
8 healing in Illinois must now shift from trauma-informed care  
9 to a healing-centered engagement, which is more effective and  
10 less costly, to quickly respond and facilitate the development  
11 of a neighborhood-by-neighborhood evidence-based direction;  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that policy decisions  
16 enacted by the Illinois State Legislature should acknowledge  
17 and take into account the principles of trauma whenever  
18 possible and consider the concepts of toxic stress, early  
19 adversity, and buffering relationships and note the role of  
20 early intervention and investment in trauma-informed policies  
21 leading to a healing-centered environment; Illinois will join  
22 the ranks of a national movement currently led by 13 states to  
23 be trauma-informed and will transform to become the first  
24 declared Healing Centered State to close the empathy gap as

1 important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a  
2 more prosperous and sustainable State through investing in  
3 human capital; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That Illinois should invest in technological  
5 connectivity that includes detailed information and resources  
6 on trauma-informed care, standards for providing  
7 evidence-based trauma-informed treatment, peer to peer  
8 networking, and creation of belonging through narrative  
9 expression; this will happen by development of a  
10 bi-directional communication tool that is accessible to  
11 communities through all of Illinois; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That Illinois should move from a siloed,  
13 individual approach to a collaborative, person-centered  
14 healing approach, to identify, strengthen, and empower  
15 individuals and communities to craft a future positive history  
16 of Illinois; Illinois will light the way by creating a Healing  
17 Capacity Building Center housed at a public health association  
18 in Illinois to provide consultation to educational, legal,  
19 health, and other institutions and agencies including but not  
20 limited to needs assessments, observation, individual and  
21 group debriefing, and ongoing coaching and mentoring; the goal  
22 is not to recreate but to act as a catalyst for supporting  
23 existing services and programming to eliminate the currently  
24 accepted policy of violence in our State; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That by providing financial backing to a renewed  
2 focus on rebuilding healthcare and human services systems  
3 further damaged by COVID-19 in such a way that will meet and  
4 surpass national standards of trauma-informed systems, the  
5 State of Illinois will be able to move to a focus on healing.