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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Health and human service organizations are
3 important components of a strong Illinois, essential employers
4 for a robust economy, and integral to healthy and safe
5 communities throughout our State; and

6 WHEREAS, These organizations contribute \$4.5 billion to
7 the economy annually, while ensuring people are healthy,
8 stable, and able to realize their potential, care for their
9 families, and contribute to their communities; and

10 WHEREAS, These organizations play a fundamental role in
11 providing person-centered, culturally sensitive,
12 evidence-based healthcare, social services, and long-term
13 services and supports aimed at promoting equality,
14 opportunity, and advancing equity; and

15 WHEREAS, According to national statistics, 81% of social
16 workers are female, with 27% of social workers being people of
17 color; 69% of counselors are female, with 24.7% of counselors
18 being people of color; 87% of direct support professionals are
19 female, with 60% of direct support professionals being people
20 of color; 87% of nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides
21 are female, with 39% of these professionals being people of
22 color; and

1 WHEREAS, Adequately supported health and human service
2 organizations are crucial in preventing hospitalizations and
3 addressing the increased demand for services, including
4 childcare, access to food, housing, mental health services and
5 supports to persons with disabilities, and healthcare for our
6 most underserved populations; and

7 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic greatly publicized the
8 crucial nature of health and human service organizations, with
9 increased expectations to provide high quality services and
10 supports in an unprecedented environment, while ensuring the
11 health and safety of as many Illinoisans as possible; and

12 WHEREAS, It has been consistently documented across
13 national and state level studies that many health and human
14 services sectors were in precarious financial positions prior
15 to the start of the pandemic, which significantly hampers the
16 ability of these organizations to meet their missions of
17 service; and

18 WHEREAS, According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap
19 Study, food insecurity in Illinois is projected to increase by
20 46% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Northwestern University
21 estimating 23% of Illinois households being impacted; and

1 WHEREAS, According to data from the Illinois Department of
2 Public Health, 85% of COVID-19 fatalities are among adults age
3 60 or older, with nearly half of these deaths being residents
4 of nursing homes; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Public
6 Health data, opioid overdose deaths rose 36.5% in the first
7 five months of 2020, from 197 deaths in January to 269 deaths;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, According to data from Illinois counties, teen
10 suicides were up in 2020 compared to 2019; Cook County's Black
11 community experienced 71 suicides in the first 9 months of
12 2020, compared to 56 in all of 2019; and

13 WHEREAS, There are 18,452 individuals with developmental
14 disabilities on Illinois' Prioritization of Unmet Need for
15 Services (PUNS), meaning these individuals and families are
16 waiting for access to services and supports; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Children
18 and Family Services, there were 143,056 child victims
19 associated with investigations of abuse or neglect in 2019;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, According to the Child and Family Research Center

1 at the University of Illinois, Black children are more than
2 two and a half times more likely to be taken into protective
3 custody than white children; and

4 WHEREAS, According to McKinsey and Company, students on
5 average could lose five to nine months of learning by the end
6 of June 2021, making learning enrichment and the social and
7 emotional support provided in afterschool programs critical to
8 helping Illinois children return to success; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois early childhood programs were required
10 to operate at a 30% reduced capacity during phases 3 and 4 of
11 the Restore Illinois plan, putting significant financial
12 strain on an already fragile system; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Housing and
14 Urban Development and the U.S. Census American Community
15 Survey, an estimated 10,199 individuals experience street and
16 shelter-based homelessness and an additional 106,443 people
17 experience homelessness by temporarily staying with others
18 across Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 3 million Illinoisans live in 245 areas
20 experiencing shortages in primary health care workforce across
21 our State, limiting their access to basic health care; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, 95% of community health centers have
2 reported at least one clinical staff vacancy, impacting their
3 ability to provide community-directed, primary and
4 preventative care; and

5 WHEREAS, While health and human services are always
6 important components of a strong state, the current crisis
7 facing Illinois elevates health and human services to the
8 highest priority level for the General Assembly and the
9 Governor as they approach the State fiscal year 2022 budget;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the State fiscal year
13 2022 health and human services budget should ensure that
14 people and communities have access to essential services,
15 including services that address the social determinants of
16 health, economic support, and family well-being; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the budget should include funding to
19 accommodate the increasing number of people in need of health
20 and human services, to continue reimbursing for remote
21 services, and to promote flexibility in order to adapt to
22 evolving needs; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the health and human services budget should
2 prioritize funding for communities that have been hardest hit
3 by the pandemic, including Black, Brown, and rural
4 communities, and reflect the needs of those who have been
5 disproportionately impacted by systemic racism, which has been
6 exacerbated by COVID-19; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the health and human services budget should
8 avoid historic silos and take a holistic approach to budgeting
9 by understanding how the various State departments and their
10 programs interact with and impact each other, avoid
11 short-sighted and costly strategy of short-term cuts, and
12 instead invest in prevention and early intervention to prevent
13 suffering and control costs over the long term; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the health and human services budget should
16 invest in the human services workforce both as a matter of
17 equity and to ensure the sector is able to attract, support,
18 and retain talented and committed individuals, recognizing the
19 workforce is disproportionately female, disproportionately
20 people of color, and disproportionately low-income to
21 moderate-income people who have been acting as essential
22 workers and have shouldered the burden of care in this
23 pandemic; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the overall budget should include new means
2 of revenue including, but not limited to, closing loopholes
3 and corporate perks, and should invest those revenues in
4 health and human services that will help hasten Illinois'
5 recovery from the pandemic; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we support the principles detailed in this
7 resolution as we work with the Governor and his administration
8 to finalize the State fiscal year 2022 budget.