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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, As gas prices continue to rise, long-term
3 solutions are needed to address the increase in travel
4 expenses many Chicagoans are facing; and

5 WHEREAS, Over 25 percent of households in Chicago do not
6 have a car; therefore, creating a network of public
7 transportation options for all Chicagoans is of the utmost
8 importance to get them where they need to go; and

9 WHEREAS, Making transit more affordable, safe, and
10 convenient is a smart way to reduce our demands on foreign oil,
11 which fuels war and dictators; and

12 WHEREAS, Improving public transit will lead to cleaner air
13 and reduced congestion; and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2021, Metra launched a pilot program
15 that improves transit services while lowering costs and, up to
16 now, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) has refused to
17 participate in this program; and

18 WHEREAS, If the CTA were a full partner with Metra, this
19 pilot program could have an even greater impact by allowing
20 transfers to and from Metra to CTA for free or at reduced rates

1 and by better syncing bus schedules with Metra; and

2 WHEREAS, This pilot program could enhance ridership by
3 installing pop-up bus priority lanes and reconfiguring the
4 timing on stop lights to make the bus service more attractive
5 and welcoming to more riders; this would address both racial
6 equity and improvement to Chicago's economy; and

7 WHEREAS, The CTA could further improve public
8 transportation by reducing fares along key corridors during
9 these peak inflationary and high gas prices; and

10 WHEREAS, In Boston, the top 10 highest ridership routes
11 during the pandemic were identified, and the city increased
12 the number of buses on these routes, with fares being either
13 made free or cut in half; and

14 WHEREAS, Long term, Chicago also needs to accelerate the
15 adoption and deployment of electric buses; together, CTA and
16 Pace must plan now for the conversion of their fleets to
17 electric, so money is not wasted buying two separate systems
18 to charge and maintain these new buses; through these changes,
19 Chicago could possess the cleanest transit system in the
20 country; and

21 WHEREAS, The current high gas price crisis should be a

1 moment for us to reflect on how Chicago can prioritize
2 alternatives to driving by reducing our reliance on oil and
3 directly address flaws within the public transit system;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we urge the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to join the Metra
8 pilot program to aid in reducing transfer costs; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge the CTA to adopt reduced fares
11 along corridors with the most essential workers; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 delivered to the CTA.