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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Nearly everyone who visits the dentist's office is familiar with the role of the dental hygienist; a hygienist performs the deep clean of your teeth, flags trouble spots that could become cavities, reviews how diet can affect the health of your mouth, and much more; a dental hygienist works with a patient to prepare them for an appearance before the dentist; and

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WHEREAS, The work of a dental hygienist helps prevent tooth decay and helps maintain a patient's oral health; the importance of having hygienists on staff cannot be understated; and

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WHEREAS, A good dental hygienist eases the dentist's burden, freeing the dentist to perform more advanced procedures; and

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WHEREAS, Across the country, employers are still struggling to fill certain jobs; that is especially true for dentists trying to hire hygienists and other support staff; in addition, many patients are just now returning to the dentist after a long pandemic break, and they are finding it difficult to schedule an appointment; and

1 WHEREAS, A poll by the American Dental Association shows
2 that nearly 40% of dentists are trying to recruit hygienists;
3 of those, 95% say it has been extremely or very difficult to
4 hire someone; in the 20 largest U.S. cities, the American
5 Dental Association's polling reveals that only half of
6 hygienist positions are reported as filled; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 80% of dentists that are recruiting
8 dental hygienists are raising salaries; some are also offering
9 more flexible working hours in an attempt to attract qualified
10 candidates; and

11 WHEREAS, Staffing shortages have brought greater
12 appreciation for the services of dental hygienists and
13 assistants; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we recognize the important role that dental hygienists and
17 assistants play in maintaining oral health; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Community College
19 Board to incentivize the dental hygienists programs throughout
20 the community colleges; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the Illinois Dental Hygienists' Association, the
2 Illinois State Dental Society, and the Illinois Community
3 College Board.