



HR0085

LRB103 30940 ECR 57490 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The only justification for the institution of  
3 foster care is that the other alternatives are worse; and

4 WHEREAS, Foster care is a suboptimal, long-term  
5 environment even when children have safe, stable, and loving  
6 non-relative or kinship foster parents; and

7 WHEREAS, Knowing where and to whom one belongs is a  
8 fundamental need of humans; and

9 WHEREAS, The process of removing children from their homes  
10 complicates children's understanding of belonging and for whom  
11 they may feel affection and consequently causes them to  
12 experience guilt about such feelings; and

13 WHEREAS, The ability to cope and adjust to various life  
14 circumstances requires some capacity, within reason, to  
15 anticipate what is coming; and

16 WHEREAS, Lack of predictability inhibits a child's ability  
17 to plan and therefore exercise real or perceived control over  
18 one's environment; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Human Services reports

1 that 69.3% of the children who have been in the Illinois foster  
2 care system for more than 24 months experience three or more  
3 placements; and

4 WHEREAS, A child entering foster care in Cook County is  
5 likely to remain in foster care significantly longer than a  
6 child entering foster care in any other region of the State;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, For purposes of providing child welfare services,  
9 the State is administratively divided into four regions,  
10 Northern, Central, Southern, and Cook; and

11 WHEREAS, Children from the Cook Region remain in foster  
12 care significantly longer than similarly situated children who  
13 enter foster care in the other three regions; and

14 WHEREAS, The Juvenile Court Act of 1987 provides that  
15 court has the responsibility of determining whether a child  
16 remains in foster care or exits foster care through  
17 reunification with family, adoption, or private guardianship;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Juvenile Court Act of 1987, 705 ILCS  
20 405/2-14, provides that an adjudicatory hearing to determine  
21 whether a child is abused, neglected, or dependent shall be

1 commenced within 90 days of the date of service of process upon  
2 the minor, parents, any guardian, and any legal custodian,  
3 unless an earlier date is required; and

4 WHEREAS, The Juvenile Court Act of 1987, 705 ILCS  
5 405/2-14, also provides that, once commenced, a subsequent  
6 delay in the adjudicatory hearing may be allowed by the court  
7 when necessary to ensure a fair hearing and only for good cause  
8 shown; and

9 WHEREAS, In FY 2020, the average number of days between  
10 the date of the child's entry into foster care and the  
11 completion of the adjudicatory hearing was 157.9 days in the  
12 Northern region, 150.9 days in the Central region, 137.6 days  
13 in the Southern region, and 489.7 days in the Cook region; and

14 WHEREAS, In FY 2021, the average number of days between  
15 the date of the child's entry into foster care and the  
16 completion of the adjudicatory hearing was 130.7 days in the  
17 Northern region, 126.9 days in the Central region, 115.8 days  
18 in the Southern region, and 325.0 days in the Cook region; and

19 WHEREAS, In FY 2020, the average number of days from the  
20 completion of the adjudicatory hearing to the entry of the  
21 order terminating parental rights was 777.0 days in the  
22 Northern region, 660.9 days in the Central region, 750.0 days

1 in the Southern region, and 961.4 days in the Cook region; and

2 WHEREAS, In FY 2021, the average number of days from the  
3 date of the completion of the adjudicatory hearing to entry of  
4 the order terminating prior rights was 729.1 days in the  
5 Northern region, 679.3 days in the Central region, 706.1 days  
6 in the Southern region, and 1,001.2 days in the Cook region;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In FY 2022, the average number of days from the  
9 completion of the adjudicatory hearing was 774.8 days in the  
10 Northern region, 717.7 in the Central region, 886.8 days in  
11 the Southern region, and 1,169.8 days in the Cook region; and

12 WHEREAS, The Children and Family Resource Center (CFRC) of  
13 the University of Illinois School of Social Work has issued  
14 several reports demonstrating that a child entering foster  
15 care in Cook County is likely to remain in foster care  
16 significantly longer than a child entering foster care in any  
17 other region of the State; and

18 WHEREAS, In its FY 2018 monitoring report to the federal  
19 court in the B.H. litigation, CFRC found that the median stay  
20 in care for those children entering foster care in the Cook  
21 region was 46 months in 2014, which was over a year longer than  
22 the time in other regions of the State; and

1           WHEREAS, In its FY 2021 monitoring report to the federal  
2 court in the B.H. litigation, CFRC concluded "In Illinois,  
3 there are large regional differences in the achievement of  
4 timely permanence for children in care. Over 66% of children  
5 taken into substitute care in the Cook region can expect to  
6 stay there longer than three years. In contrast, other regions  
7 of the state keep 36 percent of children in care that long. A  
8 continuing effort to achieve timely permanence in the Cook  
9 region is needed, so that these dismal numbers can be  
10 improved"; and

11           WHEREAS, In its FY 2021 monitoring report to the federal  
12 court in the B.H. litigation, CFRC reported that with respect  
13 to those children entering foster care in 2017, 66% of the Cook  
14 County children remained in foster care after 36 months while  
15 36% of the children who entered foster care in the rest of the  
16 State remained in foster care after 36 months; and

17           WHEREAS, In its FY 2021 monitoring report to the federal  
18 court in the B.H. litigation, CFRC found that with respect to  
19 those children who entered foster care in 2017, only 23% of the  
20 Cook County children were reunited with their families after  
21 36 months, while the figure for the rest of the State was 38%;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, In its FY 2021 monitoring report to the federal  
2 court in the B.H. litigation, CFRC found that with respect to  
3 those children who entered foster care in 2017, after 36  
4 months only 7% of the children in the Cook region exited foster  
5 care through adoption, while the figure for the rest of the  
6 State was 20%; and

7           WHEREAS, Those children who enter foster care in the Cook  
8 region and are eventually returned to their families or  
9 adopted will spend significantly more time in foster care than  
10 similarly situated children who enter foster care in other  
11 regions of the State; and

12           WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services  
13 (DCFS) statistics show that in FY 2020 the percentage of  
14 children who exited foster care through adoption was 10.5% in  
15 the Northern region, 9.7% in the Central region, 9.9% in the  
16 Southern region, and 5.4% in the Cook region; and

17           WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that in FY 2020, the  
18 percentage of children who exited foster care through  
19 reunification with their families was 16.0% in the Northern  
20 region, 17.9% in the Central region, 15.2% in the Southern  
21 region, and 6.8% in the Cook region; and

22           WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that in FY 2021, the

1 percentage of children who exited foster care through adoption  
2 was 9.4% in the Northern region, 9.2% in the Central region,  
3 11.3% in the Southern region, and 4.9% in the Cook region; and

4 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that in FY 2021, the  
5 percentage of children who exited foster care through  
6 reunification with their families was 22.8% in the Northern  
7 region, 20.1% in the Central region, 17.8% in the Southern  
8 region, and 6.0% in the Cook region; and

9 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that in FY 2022, the  
10 percentage of children who exited foster care through adoption  
11 was 9.0% in this Northern region, 9.7% in the Central region,  
12 10.7% in the Southern region, and 4.2% in the Cook region; and

13 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that in FY 2022, the  
14 percentage of children who exited foster care through  
15 reunification with their families was 22.9% in the Northern  
16 region, 20.0% in the Central region, 16.1% in the Southern  
17 region, and 7.5% in the Cook region; and

18 WHEREAS, Additional statistics show that 71.2% of Illinois  
19 children in foster care in the Cook region are Black, and a  
20 total of 31.7% of the children in the other regions of the  
21 State are Black; and

1           WHEREAS, Regardless of race, children who enter foster  
2 care in the Cook region spend significantly more time in  
3 foster care than similarly situated children who enter foster  
4 care in other regions of the State; and

5           WHEREAS, In FY 2021, the median duration of care for Black  
6 children was 22.52 months in the Northern region, 21.11 months  
7 in the Central region, 26.98 months in the Southern region,  
8 and 42.72 months in the Cook region; and

9           WHEREAS, In 2021, the median duration of care for white  
10 children in foster care was 16.66 months in the Northern  
11 region, 20.79 months in the Central region, 24.30 months in  
12 the Southern region, and 34.30 months in the Cook region; and

13           WHEREAS, In 2021, the median duration of care for Latinx  
14 children was 16.72 months in the Northern region, 19.80 in the  
15 Central region, 25.80 months in the Southern region, and 35.21  
16 months in the Cook region; and

17           WHEREAS, In FY 2022, the median duration of care for Black  
18 children was 26.36 months in the Northern region, 22.65 months  
19 in the Central region, 31.28 months in the Southern region,  
20 and 40.80 months in the Cook region; and

21           WHEREAS, In FY 2022, the median duration of care for white



1 children was 19.77 months in the Northern region, 25.62 months  
2 in the Central region, 25.16 in the Southern region, and 35.8  
3 months in the Cook region; and

4 WHEREAS, In FY 2022, the median duration of care the  
5 Latinx children was 17.54 months in the Northern region, 20.3  
6 months in the Central region, 22.07 months in the Southern  
7 region, and 35.48 months in the Cook region; and

8 WHEREAS, The disparate treatment of children in the Cook  
9 region is exemplified by DCFS data relating to children who  
10 entered foster care between April of 2019 and June 30, 2019;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics relating to those children who  
13 entered foster care between April of 2019 through June 30,  
14 2019 show that statewide, 51.5% exited foster care within  
15 three years, with 8.7% leaving through adoption, 2.1% through  
16 guardianship, 39.6% through reunification, and 1.2% through  
17 relatives; and

18 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics relating to children who entered  
19 foster care in the Northern region between April of 2019 and  
20 June 30, 2019 show that 55.9% exited foster care within three  
21 years, with 7.3% exiting through adoption, 2.3% through  
22 guardianship, 44.9% through reunification, and 1.4% through

1 relatives; and

2 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics relating to children who entered  
3 foster care in the Central region between April of 2019 and  
4 June 30, 2019 show that 57.1% exited foster care within three  
5 years, with 10.3% exiting through adoption, 1.8% through  
6 guardianship, 44.5% through reunification, and 0.5% through  
7 relatives; and

8 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics relating to children who entered  
9 foster care in the Southern region between April of 2019 and  
10 June 30, 2019 show that 52.6% exited foster care within three  
11 years, with 11.5% exiting through adoption, 3.2% through  
12 guardianship, 36.4% through reunification, and 1.5% through  
13 relatives; and

14 WHEREAS, Statistics relating to children who entered  
15 foster care in the Cook region between April of 2019 and June  
16 30, 2019 show that 31.6% exited foster care within three  
17 years, with 2.7% exiting through adoption, 1.0% through  
18 guardianship, 25.9% through reunification, and 2.0% through  
19 relatives; and

20 WHEREAS, The disparate treatment of foster children in the  
21 Cook region is also exemplified by DCFS data relating to  
22 children who entered foster care between April of 2021 and

1 June 30, 2021; and

2 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics relating to those children who  
3 entered foster care between April of 2021 through June 30,  
4 2021 show that the percentage who exited foster care within  
5 one year was 21.9% in the Northern region, 16% in the Central  
6 region, 18.4% in the Southern region, and 7.5% in the Cook  
7 region; and

8 WHEREAS, DCFS statistics show that as of January 9, 2023,  
9 the average length of stay in foster care was 31.4 months  
10 statewide, 28.0 months in the Northern region, 26.3 months in  
11 the Central region, 26.6 months in the Southern region, and  
12 42.6 months in the Cook region; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we urge the Supreme Court of Illinois and the Circuit Court of  
16 Cook County to examine the reasons for the disparate length of  
17 foster care experienced by children in the Cook region; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge the Supreme Court of Illinois and  
20 the Circuit Court of Cook County to recommend legislation to  
21 reduce this disparity and shorten the duration of foster care  
22 experienced by children in the Cook region.