



SJ0030

LRB103 31370 ECR 58967 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 211 Illinois is a free, anonymous, and
3 confidential Illinois-based human services, emergency
4 preparedness, and response helpline that is available on a
5 24-hour basis and provides live assistance referrals for basic
6 needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, counseling, income
7 supports, employment, healthcare, and services for specialized
8 populations, including the elderly and persons with
9 disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, 211 Illinois exists to connect individuals and
11 families experiencing poverty and/or economic hardship to
12 supportive resources for basic needs and to increase access to
13 early intervention and services that demonstrably reduce child
14 maltreatment and child welfare involvement; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals who have children and who experience
16 poverty and multiple types of economic and material hardships
17 are three times more likely to be investigated for neglect,
18 four times more likely to be involved in a child protection
19 investigation, and seven times more likely to be investigated
20 for physical abuse; and

21 WHEREAS, Between FY2021 and FY2022, the 211 Illinois
22 hotline received 98,046 calls and texts and connected over

1 50,000 individuals and families with housing and shelter
2 support and heating and electric utility assistance services;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Through 2022, 64% of Illinois residents lacked
5 access to 211 Illinois services in their area; and

6 WHEREAS, 211 Illinois is a collaborative effort of
7 multiple United Ways, state departments, including the
8 Department of Human Services and the Department of Public
9 Health, and existing 211 Illinois Contact Centers to provide a
10 powerful, successful example of the public, not-for-profit,
11 and private sectors working together to improve the quality of
12 life for the individuals and families of Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, When available, 211 Illinois data can be used to
14 identify gaps in the availability of service providers and
15 resources and to illuminate inequitable access to these
16 services; and

17 WHEREAS, The 211 Illinois online dashboard, currently
18 under development, will provide transparent and readily
19 accessible disaggregated data on statewide service utilization
20 and service provider gaps; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize that
3 there is a dire need for statewide expansion of 211 Illinois
4 services to prevent Illinois individuals and families who are
5 experiencing poverty and/or financial hardship from requiring
6 child welfare system involvement; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance of supportive
8 funding for services that promote child and family well-being
9 and prevent children from entering the child welfare system;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we urge state agencies serving children and
12 families to utilize data generated by the 211 Illinois online
13 dashboard to identify gaps in services and to develop
14 resources and services to fill the identified gaps; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That we recognize that state funding is
17 necessary to adequately support the expansion and maintenance
18 of 211 Illinois statewide and the community-based
19 organizations that ultimately provide the supportive services
20 to the individuals, families, and children of Illinois; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That we urge support for prioritizing funding

1 efforts dedicated to preventing the need for child welfare
2 related services in counties that have been identified as
3 experiencing gaps in offered services based on data collected
4 from 211 Illinois.