

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The 92nd General Assembly directed the creation  
3 of the Illinois After-school Initiative in House Resolution  
4 63 to identify the number of school-age children and youth in  
5 the State who are in need of out-of-school-time programs and  
6 to develop a plan for coordinating resources to achieve a  
7 goal of providing out-of-school-time services to every  
8 school-age child and youth in the State; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois After-school Initiative found that  
10 1.6 million school-age children and youth in Illinois are  
11 potentially in need of programs during the hours they are not  
12 in school; and

13 WHEREAS, Sixty-four percent of all Illinois children  
14 between the ages of 6 and 17 live in families where the sole  
15 parent or both parents work; and being unsupervised during  
16 the non-school hours puts children and youth at greater risk  
17 of truancy, performing poorly in school, depression,  
18 substance abuse, and becoming a victim of crime; and

19 WHEREAS, The Illinois After-school Initiative found that  
20 41% of Illinois eighth-grade students were home alone more  
21 than 10 hours a week, and research shows that the likelihood  
22 of high-risk behaviors increases when youth are home alone 10  
23 or more hours a week; and

24 WHEREAS, Research indicates that children who attend  
25 high-quality, out-of-school-time programs have better peer  
26 relations, emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills,  
27 grades, and conduct in school compared to their peers who are  
28 not in out-of-school-time programs; and

29 WHEREAS, Children who attend quality out-of-school-time  
30 programs spend more time in learning opportunities, academic  
31 activities, and enrichment activities and spend less time

1 watching television than their peers; and

2 WHEREAS, Parents and youth interviewed for the Illinois  
3 After-school Initiative detailed time and time again the  
4 positive difference out-of-school-time programs made in their  
5 lives and the lives of their families; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2002 task force report issued by the  
7 Illinois After-school Initiative at the request of the 92nd  
8 General Assembly focused on actions that would strengthen the  
9 State's ability to support high-quality, affordable,  
10 out-of-school-time programs and recommended policy changes in  
11 the areas of State-level interagency collaboration, capacity  
12 building, community collaboration, evaluation, and funding;  
13 and implementing these recommendations will require the  
14 continued collaboration, focus, and commitment of the State  
15 Board of Education and the Department of Human Services; and

16 WHEREAS, The recommendations of the Illinois After-school  
17 Initiative reflect the expertise of parents and over 60  
18 representatives from State agencies, public institutions, and  
19 private non-profit organizations with extensive experience in  
20 education, youth development, research, violence prevention,  
21 juvenile justice, child care, volunteerism, and social work,  
22 and it is imperative for Illinois' school-age children and  
23 youth that the collaboration that produced this shared vision  
24 for out-of-school-time programming continue; and

25 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of Illinois children and  
26 youth will be denied the opportunity to participate in  
27 activities that can help them reach their fullest potential  
28 and avoid the negative choices that are costly and  
29 detrimental to society if the State fails to enact the  
30 recommendations of the Illinois After-school Initiative to  
31 reduce duplication, streamline program requirements, maximize  
32 funding opportunities, train program staff, involve community

1 institutions in designing and implementing programs, promote  
2 research-supported best practices, measure program outcomes,  
3 and evaluate the effectiveness of out-of-school-time  
4 interventions; and

5 WHEREAS, The Illinois After-school Initiative's task  
6 force report recommended that the General Assembly extend the  
7 duration of the Initiative and expand its membership and  
8 responsibilities to oversee the implementation of the  
9 Initiative's recommendations; and

10 WHEREAS, In December 2002, Illinois was one of 8 states  
11 recognized by a national foundation committed to building  
12 strong statewide after-school networks for its efforts to  
13 coordinate services and reach all interested children and  
14 youth with after-school programs, and the foundation has  
15 provided financial support to build upon the work begun by  
16 the Illinois After-school Initiative; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
19 the State Board of Education and the Department of Human  
20 Services are directed to extend the duration of the Illinois  
21 After-school Initiative, to be renamed the Illinois  
22 After-school Partnership, until 2006, and that these agencies  
23 continue to co-chair the Partnership and oversee its efforts  
24 to implement the policy recommendations and strategic next  
25 steps identified in the Illinois After-school Initiative's  
26 task force report; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That participation in the Illinois After-school  
28 Partnership be expanded beyond the membership of the initial  
29 Illinois After-school Initiative to increase the  
30 representation of parents, youth, foundations, employers, and  
31 others with experience in education, child care, after-school  
32 and youth development services, and crime and violence

1 prevention; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Partnership work diligently with the  
3 private sector to understand the out-of-school-time needs of  
4 employed parents and their families, and that the Partnership  
5 engage the public and private sectors in building and  
6 sustaining high quality out-of-school-time programs; and be  
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That each year, on or before December 31, the  
9 Illinois After-school Partnership report its progress in  
10 reaching the recommendations set forth in the Illinois  
11 After-school Initiative's task force report to the General  
12 Assembly and the Governor; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall  
14 be delivered to the State Board of Education and the  
15 Department of Human Services.