

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Providing care treatment, rehabilitative, and  
3 habilitative services to individuals with developmental  
4 disabilities or mental illness is a fundamental  
5 responsibility of Illinois State government; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with developmental disabilities and  
7 mental illness depend on these services to ensure their  
8 safety, meet their basic needs, help them to develop to their  
9 fullest potential, and live, work, and recreate in the most  
10 integrated setting appropriate to their individual  
11 circumstances; and

12 WHEREAS, Centers for Independent Living provide critical  
13 non-residential services to individuals with physical and  
14 developmental disabilities that allow such individuals to  
15 gain the skills necessary to direct their own lives,  
16 participate in their communities, and gain self-sufficiency;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Illinois has a widespread network of  
19 community-based agencies with which it contracts for the  
20 provision of such treatment, residential, non-residential,  
21 and day treatment programs to thousands of individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, A critical variable in providing high quality  
23 services to individuals with developmental disabilities,  
24 physical disabilities or mental illness is having a  
25 dedicated, stable, well-trained staff; and

26 WHEREAS, Historically these agencies have not received  
27 sufficient State funding to cover the costs of providing  
28 services, including the ability to provide salary levels or  
29 benefits that attract and retain employees; and

30 WHEREAS, Such inadequate funding levels have resulted in  
31 a decrease in the level of community services to individuals

1 who need them, delays in the provision of services,  
2 geographic differences in the availability of services, low  
3 wages and inadequate benefits for staff, high employee  
4 turnover, and an increased level of borrowing by service  
5 providers to make ends meet; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past three years insurance costs for  
7 these service providers, particularly employee health  
8 insurance costs, have increased far faster than the rate of  
9 inflation; and

10 WHEREAS, These community service providers did not  
11 receive any cost-of-doing-business or cost-of-living increase  
12 in the previous two State fiscal years; and

13 WHEREAS, In recognition of all of the above, the Illinois  
14 General Assembly, by an overwhelming vote, included a 4%  
15 cost-of-living increase for these community service agencies  
16 serving individuals with developmental disabilities, physical  
17 disabilities, or mental illness in Illinois in a supplemental  
18 funding bill for FY 2003 that increased the base funding  
19 level for these agencies in subsequent fiscal years; and

20 WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich signed that funding  
21 increase into law; and

22 WHEREAS, The Governor's Office of Management and Budget  
23 has directed all State agencies to hold 2% of their funds in  
24 reserve; and

25 WHEREAS, In response to this directive, the Department of  
26 Human Services reduced the base level funding of the agencies  
27 that provide community based services to individuals with  
28 developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental  
29 illness by 2% and applied the 4% cost-of-living increase to  
30 the reduced base funding level, resulting in a net funding  
31 increase to these agencies of less than 2%, rather than the

1 4% intended by the General Assembly; and

2 WHEREAS, Because of other actions taken by the Department  
3 of Human Services, many of these agencies have thus far  
4 received no increase at all; and

5 WHEREAS, Because much of the funding to these agencies is  
6 reimbursed to the State by the federal government at the rate  
7 of 50% through the Medicaid program, the actual cost to the  
8 State to fund the 4% cost-of-living increase is actually less  
9 than the amount being held in reserve; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the  
12 Governor's Office of Management and Budget and the Department  
13 of Human Services to act to ensure that Centers for  
14 Independent Living, agencies serving individuals with  
15 developmental disabilities, and agencies serving individuals  
16 with mental illness through contracts with the State receive  
17 the full 4% cost-of-living increase that was mandated by  
18 action of the General Assembly for the purpose of enabling  
19 such agencies to continue to meet the vital needs of the  
20 individuals they serve.