



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education wants  
3 public and private universities and community colleges to  
4 provide personal information about every student in the country  
5 in order to create the national Student Record Data System; the  
6 Department claims that the new data system will provide more  
7 accurate and useful information regarding the status of our  
8 higher education system; and

9 WHEREAS, This data system would collect from universities  
10 the following information for each student: social security  
11 number, history of classes taken, current class schedule,  
12 address, phone number, race, gender, academic performance,  
13 degree and certificate completion status, and student loan  
14 records; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 17 million students nationwide attend  
16 institutions of higher education that would be required to  
17 report data to the Student Record Data System; and

18 WHEREAS, Many postsecondary institutions are already  
19 facing financial difficulties and requiring these institutions  
20 to submit additional reports to the federal government would  
21 add additional costs to their already cash-strapped budgets;  
22 furthermore, these costs may have to be passed on to students  
23 in the form of increased tuition or fees; and

24 WHEREAS, A person's social security number serves as the  
25 "access code" to his or her life and a database of 17 million  
26 individuals' personal information would be an extremely  
27 attractive target for computer identity theft; in 2004 alone,  
28 11,138 Illinois residents reported cases of identity theft to  
29 the Federal Trade Commission; and

30 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the National Association of

1 Independent Colleges and Universities and the United States  
2 Student Association oppose this potential violation of  
3 students' privacy; and

4 WHEREAS, Other critics worry that, in the future,  
5 additional federal uses will be demanded for the information  
6 contained in the database, such as making the information  
7 available to other agencies like the Department of Homeland  
8 Security or the Internal Revenue Service; currently under the  
9 USA Patriot Act, the Attorney General of the United States and  
10 the United States Department of Justice would have unrestricted  
11 primary access to the information pursuant to their duty to  
12 fight terrorism; and

13 WHEREAS, A vote of the Congress of the United States is  
14 required to authorize the U.S. Department of Education to  
15 create the Student Record Data System; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we strongly urge the Congress of the United States and the  
19 United States Department of Education not to move forward with  
20 the creation of the Student Record Data System as it severely  
21 impinges upon the privacy rights of our students and places  
22 great financial and clerical burdens upon our already  
23 overworked universities and community colleges; and be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
26 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the  
27 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, each member of  
28 the Illinois congressional deligation, and the U.S. Secretary  
29 of Education.