



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, An estimated 35,000 Illinoisans are living with  
3 HIV/AIDS ; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS  
5 Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is critical to meeting the  
6 healthcare and support service needs of Illinoisans living with  
7 HIV who are low-income and/or uninsured; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois communities rely on more than  
9 \$60,000,000 in Ryan White CARE Act funding each year to provide  
10 an array of HIV-related healthcare, dental, mental health,  
11 substance abuse treatment, case management, medication  
12 reimbursement, legal assistance, housing, nutrition  
13 counseling, and other essential services; and

14 WHEREAS, The most recent CARE Act authorization law expired  
15 on September 30, 2005, and Congress will soon consider new  
16 legislation to shape the future direction of CARE Act programs;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
19 (HHS) released a reauthorization proposal in July of 2005,  
20 that, if enacted, would severely reduce CARE Act funding for  
21 Illinois; and

22 WHEREAS, One of the provisions in the proposal requires  
23 funding formulas beginning in FY 2007 to include the number of  
24 HIV cases, but the U.S. government has refused to accept data  
25 from Illinois because it has collected HIV case reports by  
26 code, an option given to states in 1999; and

27 WHEREAS, On January 1, 2006, Illinois will begin collecting  
28 and reporting cases of HIV by name, the preferred method for  
29 the federal government, but will need additional time for the

1 reporting system to mature so that all cases of HIV reported in  
2 Illinois can be counted toward funding formula allocations; and

3 WHEREAS, Other provisions recommended by HHS would result  
4 in dramatic funding reductions for AIDS-related services to  
5 suburban, rural, and urban communities across Illinois, and  
6 reduce AIDS-related healthcare and essential services;  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation  
11 retaining the current "hold-harmless" provisions of the 2000  
12 Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization, which protects  
13 jurisdictions from large, destabilizing reductions in funding;  
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to explore the use of  
16 scientifically-derived estimates of the number of people  
17 living with HIV/AIDS in U.S. jurisdictions for funding  
18 distribution purposes until HIV surveillance systems are  
19 sufficiently accurate and complete across the nation to fairly  
20 base funding decisions; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 delivered to the President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, the  
23 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Secretary of  
24 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Governor Rod  
25 Blagojevich, and each member of the Illinois congressional  
26 delegation.