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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Illinois Standards Achievement Test, which scores are critical to Illinois' compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, is being delivered late to school districts across Illinois and with incomplete or incorrect testing documents; and

WHEREAS, The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires all states to measure each public school's and district's achievement and establish annual achievement targets for the state to show adequate yearly progress; and

WHEREAS, Adequate yearly progress calculations in Illinois are now based on three factors: (1) the percentage of reading and mathematics scores that meet or exceed standards, compared to the annual State targets; (2) the participation rate of students in taking the State tests, which must meet or exceed 95%; and (3) the attendance rates of students in elementary and middle schools and the graduation rates of students in high schools, which must meet or exceed the State's annual targets; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Standards Achievement Test is scheduled to be administered in all school districts between March 6 and March 24 for students in grades 3 through 8 in reading and mathematics and for students in grades 4 and 7 in science; and

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education entered into a new contract with assessment vendor Harcourt Assessment, Inc. in 2005 to administer the standardized test for the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. has not adequately performed its contractual duties for the State of Illinois,

1 jeopardizing the validity of the State standardized test
2 because of multiple problems with timely delivery and the
3 accuracy of testing documents; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we request the State Superintendent of Education to attend a
7 joint hearing of the House Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Committee and the House Elementary and Secondary Education
9 Appropriation Committee to (1) produce the RFP request, with
10 all subsequent responses from interested parties, e-mails,
11 correspondence, and all other information concerning the
12 procurement of Harcourt Assessment, Inc.; (2) outline how the
13 contract with Harcourt Assessment, Inc. was derived; (3)
14 explain all provisions of the contract, in conjunction with the
15 State Board of Education's expectations for compliance with
16 contractual duties; (4) explain why the State Board of
17 Education was not aware of Harcourt Assessment, Inc.'s
18 inability to perform its contractual duties; and (5) explain
19 how the multiple problems with the delivery of tests and the
20 accuracy of testing documents put the 2006 standardized testing
21 in jeopardy of being invalid; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
23 delivered to the Speaker of the House, the members of the House
24 Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, the members of
25 the House Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriation
26 Committee, the members of the State Board of Education, and the
27 State Superintendent of Education.