



HJ0054

LRB095 11842 RAS 34887 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In Illinois, over 300,000 children under the age  
3 of 18 are living with and being cared for by more than 100,000  
4 grandparents; and

5 WHEREAS, Grandparent caregivers, the majority of whom are  
6 single women ranging in age from 30 to 90 with an average  
7 annual income of \$15,000 to \$25,000 typically raise one to 2  
8 grandchildren and have been doing so for 5 years or longer; and

9 WHEREAS, Factors contributing to the growing number of  
10 grandparents raising grandchildren include, but are not  
11 limited to, alcohol and drug abuse, neglect, abuse,  
12 abandonment, death of a parent, HIV/AIDS, divorce,  
13 unemployment, poverty, parental incarceration, teen pregnancy,  
14 and welfare reform; and

15 WHEREAS, Many grandparents provide care for children  
16 without legal custody or guardianship; to establish a legal  
17 relationship with the children, the caregiver must institute a  
18 long, costly, and emotionally difficult legal proceeding  
19 against the parents, one of whom is their child; and

20 WHEREAS, Many relatives do not qualify for legal assistance  
21 due to age, income, type of case, or attorney conflict; and

1           WHEREAS, Article X of the Illinois Constitution states that  
2           it is a fundamental goal of the State that every child have the  
3           right to a free public education; and

4           WHEREAS, \$11.6 billion was paid in local property taxes to  
5           school districts in 2005; grandparents assuming responsibility  
6           for a child are funding their local schools through property  
7           taxes either paid directly or through their rent; and

8           WHEREAS, Some school districts have required grandparents  
9           to have legal custody or guardianship for regular education  
10          students; in these instances, school districts have  
11          misinterpreted Section 10-20.12b of the School Code, which  
12          gives rights to a non-parent raising a child for whom they do  
13          not have legal custody to register the child in school;  
14          therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16          NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
17          SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we affirm that every child,  
18          under the Illinois Constitution, has the right to a free public  
19          education; and be it further

20          RESOLVED, That the State Superintendent of Education issue  
21          a policy statement, no later than July 1, 2007, to all school

1 districts in the State clarifying Section 10-20.12b of the  
2 School Code; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the policy statement shall clarify that  
4 legal guardianship is not needed to register a child in school  
5 and that an attestation of residency is sufficient for  
6 registration; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to  
8 the State Superintendent of Education.