



HJ0076

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to the 2005 American Community Survey,  
3 over 12 million people lived in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Of the people living in Illinois, 72 percent are  
5 White, 15 percent are African-American, 4 percent are Asian,  
6 and 9 percent are of Other Races; and

7 WHEREAS, Of the citizens in Illinois, 15 percent are of  
8 Hispanic or Latino origin and 85 percent are not of Hispanic or  
9 Latino origin; and

10 WHEREAS, Seven percent of the population is under 5 years  
11 of age, 19 percent is between 5 and 17 years of age, 58 percent  
12 is between 18 and 64 years of age, and 16 percent of the  
13 population is 65 years of age or older; and

14 WHEREAS, There are 3,229,558 children under 18 years of age  
15 living in households in Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, Of the children living in Illinois, 65 percent are  
17 White, 18 percent are African-American, 4 percent are Asian,  
18 and 13 percent are Other Races; and

19 WHEREAS, Of the children in Illinois, 20 percent are of

1 Hispanic or Latino origin and 80 percent are not Hispanic or  
2 Latino; and

3 WHEREAS, Eighty-eight percent of children live in the same  
4 household as their parents, seven percent live with  
5 grandparents, three percent live with other relatives, and two  
6 percent live with unrelated foster parents; and

7 WHEREAS, Of the 4,691,020 households in Illinois, 50  
8 percent are defined as married-couple family household, four  
9 percent are defined as male householder - no wife present, 13  
10 percent are defined as female householder - no husband present,  
11 and 33 percent are defined as non-family household; and

12 WHEREAS, Eight percent of children who live in  
13 married-couple family households received public assistance in  
14 the past 12 months; 21 percent of children who live in male  
15 householder - no wife present family households received public  
16 assistance in the past 12 months; and 43% of children who live  
17 in female householder - no husband present family household  
18 received public assistance in the past 12 months; and

19 WHEREAS, Of the low-income households in Illinois, 78  
20 percent experienced housing problems; and 23% of White  
21 households experienced housing problems compared to 42 percent  
22 of African-American households and 53 percent of Hispanic

1 households; and

2 WHEREAS, Examination of educational achievement for  
3 Illinois residents 25 years and older reveals that 15 percent  
4 have achieved less than a high school diploma, 28 percent  
5 graduated from high school, 28 percent attended college or  
6 received an associated degree, 18 percent received a bachelor's  
7 degree, and 11 percent have attained a graduate degree or  
8 higher or professional degree; and

9 WHEREAS, Fifty-four percent of low-income households pay  
10 more than 50 percent of their household income for housing; and

11 WHEREAS, Over 44,000 adults are in prison, and 94 percent  
12 are male and six percent are female; 60 percent are  
13 African-American, 11 percent are Hispanic, and 28 percent are  
14 White; and

15 WHEREAS, Of the more than 1,400 juveniles in prison, 92  
16 percent are male and eight percent are female; and 54 percent  
17 are African-American, 11 percent are Hispanic, and 34 percent  
18 are White; and

19 WHEREAS, Children reared by single parents are more likely  
20 to drop out of high school, commit criminal acts, and become  
21 homeless; and

1           WHEREAS, Since 2002, over 26,000 children per year are  
2 indicated for abuse or neglect and are living with parents more  
3 likely to be identified as the perpetrator; and

4           WHEREAS, The socioeconomic status of the parents affects  
5 the risk of children experiencing violent acts, growing up in  
6 violent communities, and not having access to a quality  
7 education or affordable and quality health care; and

8           WHEREAS, Families are under stress and are increasingly  
9 unable to protect or provide for their children; and

10          WHEREAS, Family violence, including domestic violence,  
11 negatively affects children's emotional and psychological  
12 well-being; and

13          WHEREAS, Families living below poverty and middle income  
14 earners are more likely to become homeless as there is a severe  
15 shortage of affordable housing; and

16          WHEREAS, The family is the primary institution for caring  
17 and providing for the emotional, physical, and social  
18 well-being of children and assuring that they receive the moral  
19 guidance and social skills to successfully reach their  
20 potential and contribute as citizens; and

1           WHEREAS, Many children live in communities where food  
2           deserts exist - they are unable to access healthy food; and

3           WHEREAS, Children living in some urban communities are  
4           frequently exposed to different levels of assorted toxic  
5           chemicals both inside and outside the home; and

6           WHEREAS, Low-income children and their parents are less  
7           likely to have access to quality health care, less likely to  
8           have incomes to secure safe and affordable housing, and less  
9           likely to have community schools with certified teachers than  
10          affluent families; and

11          WHEREAS, There is a relationship between child well-being,  
12          family well-being, and a community's social and economic  
13          strength; and

14          WHEREAS, Parents are primarily responsible for instilling  
15          in their children moral, community, civic, and social  
16          responsibility; and

17          WHEREAS, Community institutions, agencies, and  
18          organizations have a moral and social responsibility to assist  
19          their members in achieving optimal well-being; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
3           SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Parents and  
4           Community Accountability Study Committee, hereafter referred  
5           to as the Committee, consisting of 29 members appointed as  
6           follows:

7           (1) Three members appointed by the President of the  
8           Senate;

9           (2) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
10          Senate;

11          (3) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House  
12          of Representatives;

13          (4) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
14          House of Representatives;

15          (5) One member of the Governor's staff appointed by the  
16          Governor;

17          (6) Two members appointed by the Chair of the Illinois  
18          African-American Family Commission;

19          (7) Two members appointed by the Joint Chair of the  
20          Illinois Legislative Black Caucus;

21          (8) One member appointed by the Chair of the Illinois  
22          Prisoner Review Board;

23          (9) One member from each of the following State  
24          agencies appointed by their respective heads: Department  
25          of Children and Family Services, Department of Human  
26          Services, Department on Aging, Illinois State Board of

1 Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of  
2 Healthcare and Family Services, and Department of  
3 Corrections; and

4 (10) Six public members representing the interests of  
5 child welfare advocates, public health researchers, the  
6 general public, the formerly incarcerated, faith-based  
7 community, and court personnel - each appointed by the  
8 Governor; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislature shall provide staff and  
10 administrative support to the Committee; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall examine issues related  
12 to racial and socioeconomic disparities affecting the  
13 pro-social development of children and youth; shall identify  
14 ways to engage more parents in being accountable for the  
15 actions of their children; and shall identify ways to engage  
16 more communities in being accountable for investing in  
17 pro-social development of children and families; the Committee  
18 shall also research the types of supports needed to help  
19 parents develop the necessary skills to ensure that their  
20 children achieve positive youth development and to reduce  
21 factors that lead to violence in the community, home, and  
22 school; the Committee shall also study what systems are needed  
23 to assist communities to reinvest in and support children and  
24 families; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Committee shall hold public hearings in  
2 every Legislative District it deems necessary and present a  
3 report of its findings and recommendations to the 96th General  
4 Assembly before December 31, 2008.