



HR0123

LRB095 06833 DRJ 26951 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
3 signed the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944", better  
4 known as the "GI Bill of Rights"; and

5           WHEREAS, The bill at first was the subject of intense  
6 debate and parliamentary maneuvering, but has since been  
7 recognized as one of Congress' most important acts; and

8           WHEREAS, During the past five decades, the law has made  
9 possible the investment of billions of dollars in education and  
10 training for millions of veterans, and the nation has in return  
11 earned many times that investment in increased taxes and a  
12 dramatically changed society; and

13           WHEREAS, The law also made possible the loan of billions of  
14 dollars to purchase homes for millions of veterans and helped  
15 to transform the majority of Americans from renters to  
16 homeowners; and

17           WHEREAS, The 1944 GI Bill provided six benefits: education  
18 and training; loan guarantees for a home, farm, or business;  
19 unemployment pay; job-finding assistance; top priority for  
20 building materials for VA hospitals; and military review of  
21 dishonorable discharges; the home loan program is the only

1 feature of the original bill that is still in force; and

2 WHEREAS, The original GI Bill ended in 1956, but subsequent  
3 GI Bills have continued the original bill's education and  
4 training benefits; the bill currently in effect is the  
5 Montgomery GI Bill, which provides benefits for veterans who  
6 served after July 1, 1985, and for military reservists; and

7 WHEREAS, In signing the original GI Bill, President  
8 Roosevelt stated that the Bill "gives emphatic notice to the  
9 men and women in our armed forces that the American people do  
10 not intend to let them down"; and

11 WHEREAS, Our servicemen and women have sacrificed much for  
12 our country, and continued funding of GI Bill benefits is  
13 imperative to ensure that they are treated with the respect  
14 they deserve; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 urge the federal government to meet all of the financial  
18 obligations of the GI Bill; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to  
20 President George W. Bush, federal Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
21 Jim Nicholson, each member of the Illinois Congressional

1 delegation, and the Director of the Illinois Department of  
2 Veterans' Affairs.