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HOUSE RESOLUTION 384

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WHEREAS, There is clear evidence that quality after-school programs can achieve positive outcomes for children and youth in the areas of safety, academics, health and prevention, social and emotional skill building, civic engagement, and development of 21st century skills, making after-school programs a valuable and needed community service; and

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WHEREAS, It is important for after-school programs to demonstrate characteristics of quality indicated by research to increase the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes for children and youth in their programs; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois has multiple funding streams supporting after-school programs with distinct funding policies and priorities that are not coordinated across administering State agencies, resulting in gaps and overlaps of services; and

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WHEREAS, The demonstrated need in communities for after-school services far outweighs the current available funding; and

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WHEREAS, The majority of Illinois citizens report that there are not enough after-school opportunities in their communities; and

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1 WHEREAS, Illinois has seen increasing investment in
2 after-school programs by members of the General Assembly in
3 response to the need for after-school programming; this
4 increased funding needs to be strengthened with structures that
5 ensure access, accountability, and sustainability and support
6 the quality elements that are likely to result in positive
7 youth outcomes; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 there is established the After-school Funding Policy Task Force
11 to develop recommendations for the administration and
12 coordination of the after-school, mentoring, and student
13 support line item in the State Board of Education's budget; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the After-school Funding Policy Task Force
16 be comprised of the following members:

17 (1) one representative from the Governor's Office,
18 appointed by the Governor;

19 (2) one representative of the Department of Human
20 Services, appointed by the Secretary of Human Services;

21 (3) one representative of the State Board of Education,
22 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

23 (4) one representative (who shall serve as the convener

1 of the Task Force) of an organization that is both (i)
2 coordinated by a group with a goal of preventing violence
3 and (ii) composed of members that include the Department of
4 Human Services, the State Board of Education, and various
5 other organizations that provide after-school programming,
6 appointed by such an organization;

7 (5) one representative of a statewide after-school
8 advocacy group, appointed by the Governor;

9 (6) one representative of a statewide organization
10 professionally supporting one-to-one mentoring programs
11 and services, appointed by the Governor;

12 (7) one representative of a statewide violence
13 prevention organization, appointed by the Governor;

14 (8) one representative of a statewide group
15 representing law enforcement, appointed by the Governor;

16 (9) one representative of a statewide group
17 representing the African-American community, appointed by
18 the Governor;

19 (10) one representative of a statewide group
20 representing the Latino community, appointed by the
21 Governor;

22 (11) two local government representatives, one from
23 the City of Chicago appointed by the mayor of the City of
24 Chicago and one from a city other than the City of Chicago
25 appointed by the Governor;

26 (12) one representative of a Chicago-based

1 after-school program that receives funding from the
2 after-school, mentoring, and student support line item,
3 appointed by the general superintendent of schools of City
4 of Chicago School District 299;

5 (13) one representative of a downstate after-school
6 program that receives funding from the after-school,
7 mentoring, and student support line item, appointed by the
8 State Superintendent of Education; and

9 (14) up to 5 additional representatives appointed by
10 the Governor, as deemed appropriate; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the After-school Funding Policy Task Force
12 may invite additional members to join as needed for expertise
13 and consultation, including, but not limited to, members of the
14 General Assembly, after-school entities from other states,
15 university-represented experts in youth development, national
16 organizations, parents and youth, and funders; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That this State has in place the Illinois
19 After-school Partnership, which has over the past 3 years
20 gathered data to support increased quality and availability of
21 after-school programs and has access to State and national
22 expertise on elements of a sound after-school system; these
23 resources will be considered during the development of future
24 funding policies; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the After-school Funding Policy Task Force
2 shall undertake the following:

3 (1) develop policy recommendations for the
4 after-school, mentoring, and student support line item
5 that outline the priorities, guidelines, appropriate
6 administrative structures, and accountability systems that
7 allow sufficient flexibility to meet community needs and
8 require recipients to adhere to baseline measures of
9 accountability and to establish this line item as a
10 sustainable source of after-school funding in addition to
11 current state-level programs; and

12 (2) develop policy recommendations that ensure
13 adequate support for the administering agency to fund
14 program monitoring, data collection, and accountability
15 systems, professional development and technical
16 assistance, and program evaluations for recipients of this
17 funding and to provide technical assistance to
18 organizations not previously funded by this State to
19 increase their capacity to provide quality services; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the After-school Funding Policy Task Force
22 shall produce a report outlining policy recommendations no
23 later than October 1, 2007, which report must be presented to
24 all appropriate House committees for approval; and upon

1 presenting its report the Task Force is dissolved; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Governor, the Secretary of Human Services, the
5 State Superintendent of Education, and the general
6 superintendent of schools of City of Chicago School District
7 299.