



HR0495

LRB095 12377 NHT 37304 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS) in Chicago  
3 was established in 1997 to provide a second chance for students  
4 through alternative education for at-risk youth who previously  
5 dropped out of public high school; YCCS now includes 23  
6 different campuses throughout the City of Chicago; and

7           WHEREAS, YCCS is the only charter school in this State that  
8 provides alternative education programs and services focused  
9 primarily on dropouts; and

10           WHEREAS, Eighty percent of teachers at the charter school  
11 who teach core academic subjects have been rated as "highly  
12 qualified" in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind  
13 Act of 2001, and 81% of teachers at the charter school have  
14 been rated "appropriately certified" by City of Chicago School  
15 District 299 in accordance with the School Code; and

16           WHEREAS, Over 5,700 students at YCCS who had previously  
17 dropped out of traditional high schools have graduated from  
18 YCCS campuses; and

19           WHEREAS, The charter school's 9-year average student  
20 attendance rate is 79% and its 9-year average student retention  
21 rate is 69%; and

1           WHEREAS, Students have achieved an average grade point gain  
2           of 1.6 in reading and 1.6 in mathematics for each year enrolled  
3           at the charter school; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2005, YCCS ranked eighth in the number of  
5           students who received a passing or exceeding score in reading  
6           on the Prairie State Achievement Examination among Chicago  
7           public high schools that had 90% or more of their student  
8           population living at or below federal poverty guidelines, and  
9           YCCS placed in the upper third for school performance in  
10          reading by City of Chicago School District 299 in comparison to  
11          all of the other 76 high schools in the City of Chicago;  
12          therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14          NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15          respectfully request that the Chicago Board of Education renew  
16          the charter of Youth Connection Charter School; and be it  
17          further

18          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19          delivered to Youth Connection Charter School and the Chicago  
20          Board of Education.