



SR0053

LRB095 08468 KXB 28647 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Children as young as nine years old fall prey to gangs, drug use, and violent crime every day and ruin their chances of being successful in the future; and

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WHEREAS, 30% of children arrested for violent crimes are repeat offenders who pose a constant drain of resources on the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, A majority of juvenile crime arrests occur on the south and west sides of the City of Chicago, areas which are primarily occupied by minorities living below poverty level; and

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WHEREAS, Despite community efforts and an increased police presence there have been no statistical changes in the rate of juvenile crime arrests in the City of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, The most recent statistics, which are over ten years old, find that the average cost of holding a teenager in a juvenile facility was \$33,000 a year; and

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WHEREAS, All current juvenile justice programs focus on post-incarceration efforts to rehabilitate and early-childhood efforts to keep children away from drugs and gangs; and

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1           WHEREAS, No juvenile justice programs currently available  
2           in the State of Illinois teach children the practical aspects  
3           of criminal law; and

4           WHEREAS, Statistics show that early prevention programs  
5           are most effective to prevent juveniles from committing violent  
6           crimes in the future; and

7           WHEREAS, Chicago TAP, in collaboration with the Chicago Bar  
8           Association, identified juvenile crime prevention as a top  
9           priority to reduce juvenile crime and prevent overall crime;  
10          therefore, be it

11          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
12          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support programs to  
13          prevent violent crime among Illinois juveniles and teach  
14          juveniles about criminal law and the criminal court system in  
15          order to educate them about the ramifications of making wrong  
16          choices, and we urge Governor Rod Blagojevich to support such  
17          programs; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19          delivered to Governor Rod Blagojevich.