



HR0172

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Every hour, every school day, 16 students become  
3 dropouts in Chicago, and the majority of these students are  
4 African-American and Latino; and

5           WHEREAS, Youth Connection Charter School is a  
6 not-for-profit charter school association that caters to  
7 drop-out students, allowing them a second chance to earn a  
8 degree and providing them with professional skills to achieve  
9 rewarding careers; and

10           WHEREAS, The average dropout rate for Chicago Public  
11 Schools for the past five years was 41%; alarmingly, the  
12 average age of a student who drops out is 18 or 19, and the  
13 average reading comprehension is at the 7th grade level; forty  
14 percent of these dropouts read below a sixth grade level; and

15           WHEREAS, 75 percent of America's state prison inmates are  
16 high school dropouts; additionally, young adults who become  
17 dropouts are more than three times more likely than high school  
18 graduates to be arrested in their lifetime; and

19           WHEREAS, It is tragically clear that a high number of high  
20 school dropouts do not achieve at the same level that people  
21 with high school degrees, more frequently are incarcerated, and

1 are predominately African-American or Latino; and

2 WHEREAS, The Chicago Public Schools has been battling the  
3 problem of high drop-out rates, but sadly the number has not  
4 been able to drop below 40%; and

5 WHEREAS, Youth Connection Charter School re-enrolls high  
6 school dropouts, and achieves a higher graduation rate than  
7 Chicago Public Schools with this already marginalized  
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, Youth Connection Charter School has a current  
10 waiting list of 1,200 students; sadly, these students who are  
11 unable to enroll face the same challenges and negative  
12 consequences that other drop-outs face, despite the fact that  
13 they are trying to obtain a degree; and

14 WHEREAS, It is our obligation as a society to ensure that  
15 all students regardless of race or socioeconomic status have  
16 the right to achieve a high quality secondary education, and  
17 Youth Connection Charter School has the ability and the  
18 capacity to help more young adults reach the achievement of  
19 obtaining a high school diploma; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 request that Chicago Public Schools allocate 2,100 seats to  
2 Youth Connection Charter School over a seven-year period to  
3 address the immediate and urgent need to help as many young  
4 adults as possible achieve an education; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to Chicago Public Schools CEO Ron Huberman.