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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States economy is experiencing the worst slow down in the past 30 years and is in a severe recession; and

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WHEREAS, At 26%, this year's summer teen (16 to 19 years old) employment rate was the worst in post-World War II history, with Black and Hispanic youth the hardest hit groups; and

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WHEREAS, In the summer of 2009, more than 2 million low-income youth were out of work and on the streets; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, in 2009, 72% of all teens, 87% of Black teens, and 70% of Latino teens were jobless; and

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WHEREAS, The jobless rate of teens in Illinois rose from 52% in 2000 to 72% in 2009; Black teen joblessness rose from 79% in 2000 to 88% in 2009; and Latino teen joblessness rose from 60% to 70% during those years; and

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WHEREAS, There is discussion in Congress of another stimulus to help prevent a slump in the economy; and

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WHEREAS, From 1964 until 2000 when it was ended, there was

1 a separate summer youth employment program for over 750,000  
2 low-income youth; and

3 WHEREAS, Teen employment has a variety of long-term  
4 benefits for youth as well as the short-term improvement in  
5 their earnings and income, and the more teens work when they  
6 are 16 and 17, the more likely they are to work when they are 18  
7 and 19 and then are more likely to work when they are 20 and 21;  
8 teen employment raises earnings of youth when they are 25; and

9 WHEREAS, Teens who work are more likely to get trained by  
10 their employers via formal apprenticeship training, and  
11 low-income youth who work more in high school, especially  
12 males, are less likely to drop out of high school, and female  
13 teens who work more are less likely to get pregnant; and

14 WHEREAS, Last year, the United States Congress and  
15 President Obama passed a \$787 billion stimulus for the economy  
16 with \$1.2 billion for summer youth employment that employed  
17 over 330,000 jobless youth across the country; and

18 WHEREAS, For this summer, there is a great need to continue  
19 this program, but at this point there is no funding allocated;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Patty Murray from the state of Washington

1 has proposed a \$1.5 billion summer and year-round youth  
2 employment program; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate  
5 urges President Obama and Congress to allocate \$2 billion of  
6 the next proposed economic stimulus to create an employment  
7 program throughout the year and with a particular emphasis on  
8 the summer for 700,000 youth (13 to 21 years old), combining  
9 education and productive work in their neighborhoods; teens  
10 would earn money while they are producing meaningful work, and  
11 they will spend this money immediately, providing a direct  
12 economic stimulus to the United States economy; and be it  
13 further

14       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to President Obama, the Majority Leader of the United  
16 States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of  
17 Representatives.