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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the 107 graduates  
4 of the Urban Prep Academy for Young Men in Chicago for all  
5 graduating from high school and getting accepted into college;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, The Urban Prep Academy for Young Men is an  
8 all-male, all-black high school in Chicago's Englewood  
9 community; Urban Prep's mission is to provide a comprehensive,  
10 high-quality college preparatory education to young men that  
11 results in all of the academy's graduates succeeding in  
12 college; and

13           WHEREAS, Urban Prep Academies is a non-profit organization  
14 founded in 2002 by Tim King and a group of African-American  
15 education, business, and civic leaders; the group opened their  
16 first school, the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men in  
17 Englewood, in 2006; in 2009, they opened their second school in  
18 East Garfield Park; in 2010, the group planned to open their  
19 third school in Chicago's South Shore community; and

20           WHEREAS, The students of the Urban Prep Academies believe  
21 in the academy's creed: "We believe. We are the young men of  
22 Urban Prep. We are college bound. We are exceptional - not

1 because we say it, but because we work hard at it. We will not  
2 falter in the face of any obstacle placed before us. We are  
3 dedicated, committed and focused. We never succumb to  
4 mediocrity, uncertainty or fear. We never fail because we never  
5 give up. We make no excuses. We choose to live honestly,  
6 nonviolently and honorably. We respect ourselves and, in doing  
7 so, respect all people. We have a future for which we are  
8 accountable. We have a responsibility to our families,  
9 community and world. We are our brothers' keepers. We believe  
10 in ourselves. We believe in each other. We believe in Urban  
11 Prep. WE BELIEVE."; and

12 WHEREAS, Of the 107 African-American graduates at the Urban  
13 Prep Academy for Young Men, only 4% of the graduates could read  
14 at their grade level when they were freshman; 82% of the  
15 students came from low-income families; and

16 WHEREAS, The Urban Prep Academy for Young Men managed to  
17 get all of the graduates accepted into 72 colleges around the  
18 nation through its innovative, pro-active stance on education;  
19 before the male students started their first freshman class 4  
20 years ago, each student was assigned a college counselor; the  
21 students then took double periods of English and spent 72,000  
22 more minutes in the classroom than their peers at regular  
23 Chicago public schools; the students also visited the esteemed  
24 Northwestern University; and

1           WHEREAS, The Urban Prep Academy for Young Men's counselors  
2 will also provide comprehensive support for the students  
3 throughout their college years; and

4           WHEREAS, These young men serve as models of hard work,  
5 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
6 Illinois; therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we congratulate the 107 graduates of the Urban Prep Academy for  
10 Young Men for their success and wish them continued success and  
11 happiness in the future; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the principal of the Urban Prep Academy for Young  
14 Men on behalf of the 107 graduates as a symbol of our esteem  
15 and respect.