



SR0092

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois developed the world's first juvenile court in 1899, and has consistently been a leader in protecting children and promoting their rights; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to the health, safety, education, and growth of its children and children everywhere; and

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WHEREAS, The United States, based on its history and tradition of human rights and responsibilities, must demonstrate its dedication to provide all children with a better today and a better tomorrow; and

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WHEREAS, Children in the United States continue to face considerable hardships, including inadequate educational opportunities, and high rates of poverty, abuse, and neglect, hunger, infant mortality, incarceration, adolescent pregnancy, homicide, and suicide; and

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WHEREAS, Every child is entitled to the fundamental necessities of life, including the rights to food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education, protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and freedom from discrimination; and

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1 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the government to
2 ensure that all children and their families receive the level
3 of support necessary for the realization of these rights; and

4 WHEREAS, Each child, for the full and harmonious
5 development of his or her personality, should grow up in a
6 family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and
7 understanding; and

8 WHEREAS, On November 20, 1989, the United Nations General
9 Assembly unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of
10 the Child, which was drafted with the specific purpose of
11 promoting and protection the well-being of all children,
12 regardless of national boundaries; and

13 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been
14 ratified by 193 nations, who have used this document to guide
15 the development and implementation of policies and programs
16 that specifically meet the needs of children and families; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States and Somalia are the only two
18 nations that are party to the United Nations that have not
19 ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States formally signed the Convention

1 on the Rights of the Child in 1995, signifying its intent to
2 ratify the Convention; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon all
5 agencies in the State of Illinois, in particular those
6 concerned with the following activities as they relate to child
7 welfare - economic opportunity, education, health care,
8 housing, juvenile justice, nutrition, protection, and
9 recreation for children - ensure that their policies and
10 programs comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the President of the United States
13 to submit the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the
14 Senate Foreign Relations Committee for review; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge the Senate of the United States to
17 ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 presented to the President, the Minority and Majority Leaders
21 of the United States Senate, and United States Senators Dick
22 Durbin and Mark Kirk.