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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, We the members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are bound by our constitutional oath to
4 "provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people" of
5 Illinois, and we recognize this can best be accomplished by
6 fostering a robust and competitive business environment that
7 attracts businesses, provides jobs, and creates economic
8 opportunities for Illinois residents; and

9 WHEREAS, The December 2012 8.7% unemployment rate in
10 Illinois is higher than every bordering state and is seventh
11 highest in the country; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois has approximately \$9 billion in unpaid
13 bills and an unfunded pension liability of over \$96 billion;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The total corporate income tax rate in Illinois is
16 9.5%, the third highest in the nation, forcing Illinois to
17 continually provide tax breaks to companies on a piecemeal
18 basis; and

19 WHEREAS, Proposals presented for discussion and debate in
20 the 97th and 98th General Assemblies would enact an Illinois
21 Corporate Tax Disclosure and Responsibility Act; this Act would

1 require all publicly traded corporations and their
2 subsidiaries that are required to file an Illinois tax return
3 to disclose extensive confidential tax return information, and
4 would also require out-of-state corporations doing business in
5 Illinois but not required to file an Illinois tax return to
6 file a statement disclosing similar information or
7 explanations of their tax status; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal government, after an extensive study
9 by the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, abandoned
10 similar proposals put forth on the federal level as unwise; and

11 WHEREAS, The disclosure requirements set forth in these
12 proposals may violate confidentiality provisions of the
13 Internal Revenue Code; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois needs to transform itself into an
15 attractive state to invest in and create jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, Taxpayers have an expectation of privacy in their
17 income tax returns and the disclosure of detailed information
18 about their business; and

19 WHEREAS, Disclosure of such information would provide
20 businesses outside the State with an unfair economic advantage
21 by having in-State business tax information publicly

1 available; and

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Revenue has access to
3 all Illinois tax returns that are filed and can already provide
4 detailed aggregate information and data to legislators and the
5 public without violating taxpayer confidentiality laws; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has an existing system whereby
7 compliance with State tax Acts may be reviewed and enforced
8 through the Illinois Department of Revenue; allowing for
9 in-depth investigations and severe penalties for those in
10 violation of those Acts; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we oppose proposals intended to enact an Illinois Corporate Tax
14 Disclosure and Responsibility Act or to take other action in
15 breach of the principles of taxpayer privacy that have
16 historically guided our State income tax system.