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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois finds itself in the vortex
3 of a heroin crisis, the signs of which can be found throughout
4 the State; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of heroin-related deaths in Chicago's
6 collar counties has reached record-breaking levels in recent
7 years; according to the Lake County Coroner's Office, heroin
8 contributed to the deaths of 48 people in Lake County in 2012,
9 up from 42 in 2011; DuPage County reported a record 46
10 heroin-related deaths in 2013; in suburban Riverside, a couple
11 allegedly were on a heroin binge and found unconscious in an
12 automobile stopped on a railroad crossing; in Will County in
13 2012, the 53 heroin deaths surpassed the 34 car crash deaths as
14 the leading cause of accidental deaths for the first time since
15 the Will County Coroner's Office began tracking heroin-related
16 fatalities in 1999; in downstate Madison County, 3 victims of
17 heroin overdoses were found within one 5-hour period; and

18 WHEREAS, Illinois is not alone in its struggle with the
19 heroin crisis; according to the White House Office of National
20 Drug Control Policy, there was a 21% increase in fatal heroin
21 overdoses nationwide from 2006 to 2010; Governor Peter Shumlin
22 of Vermont, where heroin addiction is up 770% since 2000,
23 devoted most of his recent State of the State address to his

1 state's heroin epidemic; and

2 WHEREAS, The recent arrest of Mexican drug lord Joaquin
3 Guzman was a welcome development in the battle against heroin;
4 his Sinaloa drug cartel is allegedly responsible for the
5 majority of heroin coming into the Chicago region; however, the
6 money to be made by drug traffickers remains too huge for the
7 heroin trade to be stopped by Guzman's arrest; and

8 WHEREAS, Law enforcement alone cannot end the heroin
9 scourge; State-funding for prevention has been reduced by 88%
10 and treatment by 42% over the past 6 years - during which time
11 the heroin crisis has escalated across the State; the current
12 system of relying on criminal penalties is failing to solve the
13 problem; and

14 WHEREAS, Oftentimes, addiction to prescription opiates
15 precedes heroin use; and heroin is much cheaper and easier to
16 obtain than drugs such as Oxycontin and Vicodin; and

17 WHEREAS, Drug cartels are flooding the Chicago market with
18 relatively inexpensive heroin, which is often cheaper and
19 easier to obtain than a six-pack of beer; it can be smoked or
20 snorted, thus decreasing the stigma of the drug, especially
21 with teenagers; fatalities are escalating partly because some
22 heroin is now laced with a high-boasting and hazardous

1 substance, Fentanyl; and

2 WHEREAS, Family, friends, loved ones, teens, and young
3 adults, whether they are in cities, the suburbs, or rural
4 communities, are all at an increased risk of heroin overdose;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we declare a Heroin State of Emergency in Illinois; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That we direct the House Task Force on Heroin
11 Crisis to develop a comprehensive, bold, and durable package of
12 legislative proposals to combat the Illinois heroin crisis; and
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to Governor Pat Quinn, Department of Human Services
16 Secretary Michelle Saddler, House Speaker Michael Madigan,
17 Senate President John Cullerton, and Attorney General Lisa
18 Madigan.