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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives recognize that every student is unique and that
4 all children learn at a different pace when compared to their
5 peers; and

6 WHEREAS, The commonality between all students is the need
7 to be amongst their peers; and

8 WHEREAS, Inclusive education brings all students together
9 in one classroom and community, regardless of their strengths
10 or weaknesses in any area, and seeks to maximize the potential
11 of all students; and

12 WHEREAS, Students with disabilities can be integrated
13 socially with their peers; and

14 WHEREAS, Students can create long-lasting friendships that
15 would not be otherwise possible; these friendships can give
16 them the skills to navigate social relationships later in life;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In a well-designed inclusion classroom, the
19 teacher uses inclusion strategies to help students succeed
20 academically; therefore, students encounter higher

1 expectations, both from their peers and their teachers, as well
2 as the positive academic role models of their classmates
3 without disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Students with disabilities educated in an
5 inclusive classroom have been found to score higher on literacy
6 measures than students educated in segregated settings; and

7 WHEREAS, Research has shown that the majority of students
8 without disabilities have scored higher on State standardized
9 tests over a period of 4 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Research also indicates that inclusive education
11 promotes and enhances all students' social growth within
12 inclusive classrooms and does not negatively affect typical
13 students' academic growth; and

14 WHEREAS, In an inclusion setting, students with and without
15 disabilities learn how to work with each other, regardless of
16 individual skills and abilities, which helps improve academic
17 performance and the ability to succeed later in life; and

18 WHEREAS, All parents want their children to be accepted by
19 their peers and have friends; inclusive settings can make this
20 vision a reality for many children with disabilities; and

1 WHEREAS, The family of the disabled student can be
2 positively affected by classroom inclusion through newly
3 potential friendship and relationship opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, When children attend classes that reflect the
5 similarities and differences of people in the real world, they
6 learn to appreciate diversity; and

7 WHEREAS, Respect and understanding grow when children of
8 differing abilities and cultures communicate and learn
9 together, which may be the first step in creating a more
10 diverse workforce and world; 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 encourage the Illinois State Board of Education and each
14 school district in this State to consider the potential
15 benefits of inclusive education for students with and without
16 disabilities in Illinois; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to the Illinois State Board of Education and the
19 Regional Offices of Education.