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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 2013, the Illinois Senate adopted Senate Resolution 431, which created the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee was to propose a State education funding system that provides adequate, equitable, transparent, and accountable distribution of funds to school districts that will prepare students for achievement and success after high school; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2014, the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee filed its recommendations, which included ending the current General State Aid formula and mandating categorical funding, and replacing it with a new single weighted formula that assigns weighting criteria for students, such as low-income, English Language Learner, transportation needs, special education, and gifted students; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 16 was amended in April of 2014 to include the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee recommendations; a public hearing was held in the Senate and the bill was changed significantly to secure passage from the Senate; and

1 WHEREAS, The bill is now a piecemeal reallocation of State
2 tax dollars that will negatively impact hundreds of school
3 districts, causing deep budget reductions and financial
4 uncertainty; and

5 WHEREAS, There is no doubt that education funding reform is
6 a priority to ensure all students are academically successful
7 and prepared for post-secondary education and the workforce;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A more equitable and reasonable approach to
10 education funding reform must be taken to make certain that a
11 comprehensive and meaningful reform is achieved; and

12 WHEREAS, Education funding reform deserves thoughtful and
13 thorough discussion that includes all education stakeholders,
14 parents, teachers, and all members of the General Assembly;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we urge the members of this body to cease their efforts to pass
19 Senate Bill 16 to make certain that all aspects of the Senate
20 Education Funding Advisory Committee report are analyzed and
21 discussed thoroughly and publicly by all members of the General

1 Assembly, taxpayers, parents, and the education community.