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HOUSE RESOLUTION 133

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WHEREAS, Employing youth is not only a vital and effective way to prevent violence, but it is also a means for encouraging youth to stay in school; it provides much-needed financial support to them and their families while serving as a critical stepping-stone to future employment; and

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WHEREAS, In 2012, the Illinois youth employment rate was 27%, a 10% decrease from 2006; Illinois is 1 of 10 states with the highest teen unemployment rate; the youth employment rate in Chicago is 19.6%; and

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WHEREAS, African-American teens have the lowest employment rate compared to other ethnic and racial groups; African-American males aged 16-19, living in Chicago, face the most uncertainty in employment; and

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WHEREAS, Almost 23% of the city's 20 to 24 year-olds were out of work and school, compared to less than 10% of Chicago's teens; and

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WHEREAS, According to a report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, 92% of Chicago's African-American male teens were unemployed; only 6% of low-income African-American teens were employed in comparison with 13% of Hispanics and 25%

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1 White males from similar economic backgrounds; and

2 WHEREAS, The report noted that students who do not work  
3 while in school face greater chances of dropping out of high  
4 school as well as having increased incidences of teenaged  
5 childbearing and juvenile delinquency and arrests; and

6 WHEREAS, The report also stated that higher rates of youth  
7 unemployment lead to increased tax burdens for other workers as  
8 governments forgo income tax revenue, Social Security, and  
9 Medicare taxes and have to pay out more in welfare and  
10 unemployment insurance costs; it is estimated that high youth  
11 unemployment costs various governments \$25 billion a year; and

12 WHEREAS, Across Illinois, the teen employment rate fell  
13 from just under 50% in 2000 to 28% in 2012 - the lowest rate in  
14 the 42 years for which such data exist; if Illinois teens had  
15 been able to maintain their 1999-2000 employment rates during  
16 the past year, there would have been another 151,000 teens at  
17 work in Illinois in 2011-2012; and

18 WHEREAS, The investment to hire youth is lower than hiring  
19 seasoned individuals; companies have the opportunity to train  
20 newcomers possibly, for their own businesses or outside  
21 prospects; and

1           WHEREAS, Younger individuals are more technologically  
2 advanced and possess more unique skill sets that can benefit  
3 any company; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
6 encourage businesses to employ teens and young adults in order  
7 to help alleviate the youth unemployment that contributes to  
8 the demise of communities; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That employers would be not only providing a  
10 critical asset for their own businesses but preparing the next  
11 generation to become productive citizens of society.