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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The nationally-recognized Alternative Schools
3 Network runs many programs that assist at-risk youth, including
4 the Youth Skills, Scholars, and Service and Project New Futures
5 Programs; and

6 WHEREAS, The Youth Skills, Scholars, and Service Program
7 educates and graduates over 300 Department of Children and
8 Family Services high school dropouts annually; the program
9 provides educational support and various services to these
10 youth in order to provide a quality education and helps to
11 prevent and reduce violence in Department of Children and
12 Family Services wards; and

13 WHEREAS, The Project New Futures Program supported 130
14 older Department of Children and Family Services youth to
15 successfully enter adulthood by providing the personal,
16 consistent, and intense support they needed as they prepared to
17 emancipate from Department of Children and Family Services; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services has
19 recently cut \$1 million from the Alternative Schools Network's
20 Youth Skills, Scholars, and Service Program by denying the
21 organization the sub-contract that was needed to expand
22 services for older Department of Children and Family Services

1 youth; this funding cut also resulted in the elimination of the
2 Project New Futures Program; and

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services is
4 contractually obligated to refer youth that are appropriate for
5 the Alternative Schools Network's Youth Skills, Scholars, and
6 Service Program by their level of credits, skills, age, and
7 motivation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services has
9 notified the Alternative Schools Network that the Youth Skills,
10 Scholars, and Service Program should change from the
11 grant-based program it has been in previous years into a
12 fee-for-service program, a move that would undoubtedly affect
13 many of the at-risk youth these programs seek to help;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 urge the Department of Children and Family Services to
18 reinstate the funding for the Alternative Schools Network's
19 Youth Skills, Scholars, and Service and Project New Futures
20 Programs and to maintain the grant-based nature of the programs
21 so that at-risk youth can receive the education and skills they
22 need to be responsible and productive adults; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Director of the Department of Children and
3 Family Services.