



HR0834

LRB099 15056 GRL 39266 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Pope Francis, in his address to Congress, called  
3 upon the American people to come together in aiding those  
4 "trapped in a cycle of poverty"; in his address, Pope Francis  
5 asserted that "[t]he Golden Rule . . . reminds us of our  
6 responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage  
7 of its development"; and

8           WHEREAS, Article X, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution  
9 states that a fundamental goal of the people of the State is  
10 the educational development of all persons to the limits of  
11 their capacities; and

12           WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of this State to ensure  
13 that every child has access to the high quality education he or  
14 she deserves, whether in the childcare context, early childhood  
15 education classrooms, elementary school, middle school, high  
16 school, or college; and

17           WHEREAS, House Resolution 56 of the 96th General Assembly  
18 urged the State Board of Education to establish a comprehensive  
19 plan to close the student achievement gap by the 2010-2011  
20 school year; and

21           WHEREAS, Time and time again, schools in low-income

1 communities are strapped for resources and are labeled  
2 underperforming; and

3 WHEREAS, The ongoing inequality of education resources is a  
4 potential human rights violation that needs to be investigated  
5 immediately; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois should support gifted students with  
7 educational resources, regardless of school district; and

8 WHEREAS, Low-income neighborhoods have a clear  
9 disadvantage in our State's education system and this body  
10 seeks to be responsive to the needs of these communities; and

11 WHEREAS, A closer look at systemic income-related  
12 discrimination in our schools is needed to develop a clear  
13 understanding of the challenges we face and what we can do to  
14 overcome them; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 the Task Force on Equality in Education be created to conduct  
18 an investigation on education services provided to low-income  
19 families; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of the

1 following members: 3 task force members appointed by the  
2 Speaker of the House; 3 task force members appointed by the  
3 Minority Leader of the House; one task force member from the  
4 Department of Human Rights, appointed by the Governor; one task  
5 force member from the State Board of Education, appointed by  
6 the Governor; one task force member who is an educator  
7 representing a statewide professional teachers' organization,  
8 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education; one task  
9 force member who is an educator representing a different  
10 statewide professional teachers' organization, appointed by  
11 the State Superintendent of Education; one task force member  
12 who is an educator representing a professional teachers'  
13 organization in a city having a population exceeding 500,000,  
14 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education; one task  
15 force member from an organization that exists to ensure the  
16 political, educational, social, and economic equality of  
17 rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based  
18 discrimination, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
19 Education; and one task force member from an organization that  
20 works for economic, educational, and social progress for  
21 African Americans and promotes strong, sustainable communities  
22 through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation, appointed by  
23 the State Superintendent of Education; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the task force be appointed and hold its  
25 first meeting by March 1, 2016; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the task force shall take voluntary  
2 assistance and testimony from individuals and professional  
3 organizations and institutions; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall serve  
5 without compensation; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Rights shall provide  
7 staffing and administrative support services to the task force  
8 upon request; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the task force shall submit its final report  
10 to the General Assembly and the Governor no later than December  
11 31, 2016.