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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION WHEREAS, A child's early years are a critical period in 2 3 learning and development, and set the foundation for higher 4 level thinking skills later in life; and 5 WHEREAS, Missing too many days of school can make it 6 difficult for youth to stay on track in classes and maintain 7 momentum for high school graduation; and 8 WHEREAS, Chronic absenteeism is a powerful predictor of the 9 students who may eventually drop out of school; and WHEREAS, Chronic absenteeism can lead to poor educational 10 11 and life outcomes for children; and 12 WHEREAS, Students with documented disabilities are more likely to be absent from school than their same aged peers; and 13 WHEREAS, Children and youth who are homeless are more 14 likely to be chronically absent; and 15 16 WHEREAS, The hard work of educators is undermined by 17 chronic absenteeism among students; and

WHEREAS, Positive reengagement strategies can decrease

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1 chronic absenteeism and youth involvement in the juvenile

- justice system; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Children with involved families have better
- 4 school attendance, lower suspension rates, and overall higher
- 5 graduation rates; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Students who are in school every day are much more
- 7 likely to engage in positive behaviors; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Community involvement decreases chronic
- 9 absenteeism and potentially increases the local quality of
- 10 life; and
- 11 WHEREAS, School attendance promotes college and career
- 12 readiness, thereby increasing the number of students in
- 13 Illinois with high quality degrees and credentials; therefore,
- 14 be it
- 15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
- 16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
- 17 encourage the Illinois State Board of Education and each school
- 18 district in this State to consider the benefits of the
- 19 attendance awareness campaign "Every Student Counts, Every Day
- 20 Matters", encouraged by the Illinois Attendance Commission;
- 21 and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
- delivered to the Illinois State Board of Education and the
- 3 Regional Offices of Education.