

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A recent U.S. Department of Justice study found  
3 that annually 438,200 children are lost, injured, or  
4 otherwise missing; and

5 WHEREAS, The same study found that annually 450,700  
6 children run away and 354,000 children are abducted by family  
7 members; and

8 WHEREAS, There are as many as 114,600 attempted  
9 abductions of children by non-family members on an annual  
10 basis; and

11 WHEREAS, 57 percent of the more than 18,000 police  
12 departments in the United States have fewer than 10  
13 officers; and

14 WHEREAS, The lack of manpower and supplemental resources  
15 puts law enforcement at a distinct disadvantage when it comes  
16 to specialized crimes like kidnapping; and

17 WHEREAS, We all must remain vigilant when it comes to  
18 guarding the children of our community against those who  
19 would do them harm; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1994 an intra-store system of quickly  
21 responding to the report of a child missing was developed;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The project was entitled "Code Adam"; and

24 WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing and Exploited  
25 Children partnered With Wal-Mart to offer Code Adam to other  
26 retailers and businesses world wide; and

27 WHEREAS, Entities such as Wal-Mart, Albertson's, Best  
28 Buy, The Gap, Home Depot, Toys "R" Us, Kids "R" Us, K-Mart,  
29 Nordstrom's, and Supervalu have implemented Code Adam; and

1           WHEREAS, More than 21,160 stores nationwide have already  
2 implemented Code Adam; and

3           WHEREAS, Several other states have taken a similar step  
4 to raise awareness of child abduction and foster a community  
5 response; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we strongly encourage all retailers and businesses in  
9 Illinois to adopt the Code Adam project as part of a  
10 statewide effort to discourage and, if possible, prevent  
11 child abduction; and be it further

12           RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
13 Illinois Retail Merchants Association who have agreed to mail  
14 this resolution to their 23,000-plus member stores and every  
15 local chamber of commerce with a cover letter asking them to  
16 strongly consider implementation of Code Adam at the earliest  
17 feasible date.