

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Current studies about what happens to
3 unsupervised children indicate that when left alone, these
4 children have higher absentee rates at school, have lower
5 academic test scores, exhibit higher levels of fear, stress,
6 nightmares, loneliness, and boredom, are 1.7 times more
7 likely to use alcohol, and are 1.6 times more likely to smoke
8 cigarettes; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent data shows that in the City of Chicago
10 and other communities around this State, the violent juvenile
11 crime rate soars in the hours immediately after the school
12 bell rings and children are most likely to be victims of a
13 violent crime committed by a non-family member between 2 p.m.
14 and 6 p.m.; and

15 WHEREAS, Research indicates that children who attend high
16 quality after-school programs have better peer relations,
17 emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and
18 conduct in school compared to their peers who are not in
19 after-school programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Children who attend after-school programs spend
21 more time in learning opportunities, academic activities, and
22 enrichment activities and spend less time watching television
23 than their peers; and

24 WHEREAS, In one study, children who attended an
25 after-school program missed fewer days of school, had better
26 homework completion, better school behavior, and higher test
27 scores; and

28 WHEREAS, Polls show that 92% of Americans believe there
29 should be organized activities for children and teens during

1 after-school hours; and

2 WHEREAS, Polls show that 75% of Americans are ready to
3 either pay more taxes or to forego a tax cut to provide
4 children with good early childhood development programs and
5 quality after-school programs; and

6 WHEREAS, As working parents can attest, child care
7 concerns are not over once children are old enough to go to
8 school; a parent who is employed full time can be away from
9 home an average of 2,400 hours a year; children spend less
10 than half of that time in school; if their children
11 participate in a quality school-age care program or another
12 organized out-of-school time activity, parents can rest easy
13 because they know that their children are safe and
14 supervised; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the State Board of
17 Education and the Department of Human Services are directed
18 to convene and co-chair a task force, to be known as the
19 Illinois After-school Initiative, to develop a plan to ensure
20 quality after-school programs for every school-age child in
21 the State and that the Illinois After-school Initiative shall
22 be comprised of other related State agencies and private
23 organizations representing without limitation violence
24 prevention, parents, park districts, special need
25 populations, private foundations, civic and cultural
26 organizations, community-based youth service providers, law
27 enforcement, education, local voluntary organizations,
28 faith-based communities, health, evaluation, and research
29 institutions, child and youth advocacy, alcohol, tobacco, and
30 substance abuse prevention, and mental health; and be it
31 further

1 RESOLVED, That the activities of the Illinois
2 After-school Initiative shall include (i) an assessment of
3 the state of after-school services in this State, including
4 identification of the number of children and youth served
5 statewide in after-school programs, identification of the
6 number and location of children and youth who are in need of
7 after-school programs, and identification of the various
8 funding streams currently supporting after-school programs,
9 and (ii) the development of a plan for coordinating
10 after-school services and for achieving a goal of providing
11 after-school services for every school-age child in this
12 State; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative plan
14 shall include strategies for this State to promote
15 best-practice models for after-school programs and to promote
16 coordination and collaboration of after-school services at
17 the local level; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative shall
19 engage children and youth in development of the plan; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative shall
22 review and report to the General Assembly on model programs
23 operating in this State and other states and that the review
24 shall look at program components identified as best-practices
25 and based on proven research; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education and the
27 Department of Human Services may provide, by grant or
28 contract, support to a statewide organization for the
29 development and implementation of the Illinois After-school
30 Initiative plan and assessment, that funds for the Illinois

1 After-school Initiative shall be sought from the federal
2 government and State human service code departments, and that
3 private sponsorship may also be sought; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education and the
5 Department of Human Services shall report to the Governor and
6 the General Assembly on the Illinois After-school Initiative
7 plan and submit recommendations by April 1, 2002; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall
10 be delivered to the State Board of Education and the
11 Department of Human Services.