

STATE OF ILLINOIS
NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE

Senate Resolution No. 70

Offered by Senators Donahue, Radogno, Ronen and Sullivan

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Polls show that 92% of Americans believe there

1 should be organized activities for children and teens during
2 after-school hours; and

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education and the
31 Department of Human Services shall report to the Governor and
32 the General Assembly on the Illinois After-school Initiative

1 plan and submit recommendations by April 1, 2002; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall
4 be delivered to the State Board of Education and the
5 Department of Human Services.

6 Adopted by the Senate, May 21, 2001.

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8 President of the Senate

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10 Secretary of the Senate