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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Governor Ryan's proposed Department of
- 3 Corrections budget for FY03 does not include annualized
- 4 funding for the Vienna Correctional Center or for Valley View
- 5 Youth Center; and
- 6 WHEREAS, These facilities now house over 1,000 adult and
- 7 juvenile inmates; and
- 8 WHEREAS, The Department of Corrections has not presented
- 9 a clear plan as to how the Illinois prison system can absorb
- 10 these numbers of inmates at other facilities; and
- 11 WHEREAS, In presenting his budget to the General
- 12 Assembly, the Governor indicated that he was willing to
- 13 consider changes to the budget and welcomed the opportunity
- 14 for dialogue with legislators in shaping a final budget that
- would have the approval of the General Assembly; and
- 16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is currently holding
- 17 hearings and considering amendments to the Governor's budget;
- 18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives acted on
- 20 April 5 to amend the Governor's proposed budget to include
- 21 full funding for Vienna CC and Valley View IYC; and
- WHEREAS, DOC originally stated that the closure dates for
- Vienna and Valley View would be July 31 and September 30,
- 24 respectively; and
- 25 WHEREAS, On April 9, in a clear violation of the
- 26 Governor's commitment to allow for input from the General
- 27 Assembly, DOC announced that it intends to move the closure
- 28 date for both facilities forward to May 15 and to lay off
- 29 most employees as of that date; and
- 30 WHEREAS, DOC has already begun to move inmates from

- 1 Vienna with some 400 having been moved out in recent weeks;
- 2 and
- 3 WHEREAS, As a result of the loss of maximum security beds
- 4 at Joliet Correctional Center, a significant number of
- 5 inmates have had their status arbitrarily downgraded; and
- 6 WHEREAS, There are reports that incidents of violence
- 7 have begun to increase throughout the Illinois correctional
- 8 system in recent weeks; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Two correctional facilities are currently on
- 10 24-hour lockdown; therefore, be it
- 11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
- 12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we strongly oppose
- 13 the Department of Corrections' actions in moving inmates
- 14 during the course of legislative deliberations and oppose any
- 15 closure or downsizing of Vienna CC or Valley View IYC without
- legislative approval; and be it further
- 17 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly calls upon the
- 18 Governor to uphold his commitment to full input from the
- 19 Senate in the shaping of a final budget.