STATE OF ILLINOIS

HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

REGULAR & PERFUNCTORY SESSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

11:30 O'CLOCK A.M.

NO. 12

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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12th Legislative Day

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NOTE: Full text of Amendments will not be included in House Journals from the 97th GA forward; they can be viewed on the Illinois General Assembly website (www.ilga.gov). For inquiries regarding this, please contact the House Clerk's office.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.
Representative Lang in the chair.
Prayer by Pastor Shaun Lewis, who is the Director of Civil Servant Ministries.
Representative McDermed led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
By direction of the Speaker, a roll call was taken to ascertain the attendance of Members, as follows:
116 present. (ROLL CALL 1)

By unanimous consent, Representatives Gabel and Representative Poe were excused from attendance.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

OATH OF OFFICE

I, **Avery Bourne**, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, for the **95th Representative District** of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

Signed: s/Avery Bourne
Signature

Subscribed and Sworn to before me on this **18th** day of **February, 2015**

s/John Schmidt
Hon. John Schmidt
7th Judicial Circuit Court

February 18, 2015

Mr. Tim Mapes
Clerk of the House
Room 420, State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Clerk Mapes,

As the duly elected Representative for the Eighty Seventh ("87th") Representative District for the 99th General Assembly, I am resigning my elected office, effective February 20th, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

s/ Rich Brauer
State Representative 87th District (99th General Assembly)

REPORTS

The Clerk of the House acknowledges receipt of the following correspondence:

Biennial Report of efforts to "reduce the need for employee child-care services outside the home", submitted by the Illinois Department of Public Health on February 18, 2015.

Report Pursuant to the requirements of 30 ILCS 105/5i, submitted by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget on February 18, 2015.

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

February 18, 2015

Timothy D. Mapes
Clerk of the House
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
420 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Attached is a chart listing the additional majority appointments to House Committees and Task Forces for the 99th General Assembly. The number of majority and minority appointments for each House Committee is also listed.

These appointments are effective immediately.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

s/ Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House

House Special Committee on Substance Abuse
Majority Members: 5
Minority Members: 3

Representative	Lou Lang
Representative	Jerry Costello
Representative	Fran Hurley
Representative	Chris Welch
Representative	Kathleen Willis

House Committee on Juvenile Justice & System-Involved Youth
Minority Members: 7

House Violence Prevention Task Force
Majority Members: 9
Minority Members: 9

Representative	Greg Harris	Co-chair
Representative	Robyn Gabel	Co-chair
Representative	Jerry Costello	
Representative	Will Davis	
Representative	Lisa Hernandez	
Representative	Rita Mayfield	
Representative	Marty Moylan	

Representative Michelle Mussman
Representative Mike Smiddy

February 18, 2015

Mr. Tim Mapes
Clerk of the House
402 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Please be advised of the following appointment to the 99th General Assembly Juvenile Justice & System-Involved Youth Committee.

- **Juvenile Justice & System-Involved Youth**
  Representative Robert W. Pritchard is appointed

Thank you for your attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

s/Jim Durkin
House Republican Leader

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by
Mr. Anderson, Secretary:

Mr. Speaker -- I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has concurred with the House in the adoption of the following joint resolution, to-wit:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Concurred in the Senate, February 18, 2015.

Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Senate

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed on the Calendar on the order of Agreed Resolutions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 117

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Norridge Police Department Officer Zachary Zage for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 118

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Harwood Heights Police Department Sergeant Joseph Nardulli for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 119

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Norridge Police Department Officer Christopher Smith for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 120

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Norridge Police Department Officer Nicolas Rice for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 121

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Harwood Heights Police Department Officer Ryan Swartzendruber for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 122

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Norridge Police Department Corporal Vaughan Watts for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 123

Offered by Representative Martwick:

Honors Harwood Heights Police Department Officer Matthew Graber for his work in responding to a house fire in Norridge on January 7, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 124

Offered by Representative Evans:

Acknowledges the hard work and dedication of youth sports officials throughout the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 126

Offered by Representative Batinick:

Honors former State Representative Tom Cross for his service to Kendall County, Will County, and the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 129

Offered by Representative Ammons:

Congratulates the Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church in Urbana on its 104th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 130

Offered by Representative Cavaletto:
Congratulates the City of Greenville on its 200th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 131

Offered by Representative Cavaletto:
Congratulates the citizens of the City of Salem on the occasion of the City's 150th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 139

Offered by Representative Flowers:
Congratulates First Lady Michelle Obama on her success in leading the charge against childhood obesity.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 142

Offered by Representative D'Amico:
Congratulates the members of the Queen of All Saints junior varsity football team on the occasion of winning the 2014 Northwest Catholic Conference championship.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 143

Offered by Representative Verschoore:
Congratulates John A. Ambrose on his retirement from Rentech Nitrogen.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 145

Offered by Representative Evans:
Congratulates the Southeast Environmental Task Force on 25 years.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 150

Offered by Representative Wallace:
Recognizes the 150th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 6, 2015 and honors all individuals involved in the fight against slavery, especially those who gave their lives in support of the enduring legacy of freedom enshrined in the Thirteenth Amendment.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 151

Offered by Representative Bellock:
Recognizes Com-Ed employee Ed Suarez on his courageous actions of rescuing an elderly driver from an oncoming train.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 153

Offered by Representative Golar:
Mourns the death of Andrew Cash of Chicago.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 154

Offered by Representative Keith Wheeler:
Mourns the death of former Kendall County Sheriff Thomas Usry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 157

Offered by Representative Flowers:
Congratulates the African American Contractors Association on its 22nd annual Membership/Awards Reception.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 158

Offered by Representative Lang:
Mourns the death of Dean Sweitzer.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 159

Offered by Representative Tabares:
Mourns the death of Christopher John Pluta of Summit.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 161

Offered by Representative Ammons:
Commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Selma voting rights movement.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 129, 130, 131, 139, 142, 143, 145, 150, 151, 153, 154, 157, 158, 159 and 161 were taken up for consideration.
Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolutions.
The motion prevailed and the agreed resolutions were adopted.

ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30

Representative Currie offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the House of Representatives adjourns on Friday, February 20, 2015, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 12:00 o'clock noon, or until the call of the Speaker and when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, February 19, 2015, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 03, 2015, or until the call of the President.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30 was taken up for immediate consideration.
Representative Currie moved the adoption of the resolution.
The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted.
Ordered that the Clerk inform the Senate and ask their concurrence.

RECESS

At the hour of 11:57 o'clock a.m., Speaker of the House Madigan moved that the House do now take a recess for the Governor to address the Joint Session.

The motion prevailed.

JOINT SESSION
11:58 O'CLOCK A.M.

The hour having arrived, the time heretofore fixed by Joint Resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Joint Session convened for the purpose of receiving the Governor to deliver his Budget Message in person to the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly.

The Senate, preceded by the Honorable President Cullerton, and Members of the Senate, appeared in the Hall of the House of Representative and, by direction of the Speaker, took the seats assigned to them.

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President Cullerton of the Senate announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Speaker Madigan, of the House of Representatives, announced that a quorum of the House was present.

A majority of each House of the General Assembly being present, the Speaker of the House announced the Joint Session duly formed.

Representative Currie offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

JOINT SESSION RESOLUTION 2

RESOLVED, That a committee of ten be appointed, five from the House by the Speaker of the House, and five from the Senate by the President of the Senate, to wait upon Governor Bruce Rauner and invite him to address the Joint Assembly.

Representative Jay Hoffman
Representative Stephanie Kifowit
Representative Elgie Sims
Representative Margo McDermed
Representative Peter Breen
Senator Donne Trotter
Senator Michael Noland
Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
Senator Karen McConnaughay
Senator Jim Oberweis

The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted.

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER
BUDGET ADDRESS

Good Afternoon.

President Cullerton

Speaker Madigan

Leader Radogno

Leader Durkin

Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti

Attorney General Madigan

Secretary White

Comptroller Munger

Treasurer Frerichs

Members of the General Assembly,

Thank you for attending today. Thank you for your service to the people of Illinois.

Over the past week, we've commemorated the life of Illinois' greatest leader, Abraham Lincoln.

In the lead up to his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln delivered a letter to Congress, writing in part:

"The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion...We must think anew and act anew."

While the challenges before us are very different than those that faced our 16th President, here, in the Land of Lincoln, we recognize that the road ahead – our road to a more prosperous future – is a difficult one.

And like President Lincoln's call to Congress, we too must "think anew and act anew."

We must be willing to take actions we'd rather avoid, and make decisions that may seem unpopular in the short run.

The budget outlined today is the budget Illinois can afford, and that in itself is an example of "thinking anew."

Because for far too long we have been living beyond our means-spending money that Illinois taxpayers could not afford.

This budget is honest with the people of Illinois, and it presents an honest path forward.

Like a family, we must come together to address the reality we face. Families know that every member can't get everything they want.

But we can pay for what we need most.

And we can reform our system so we are able to invest more in the future.

Because the task before us is so large, all our challenges cannot be solved by a single budget.

It will take time to restore Illinois to fiscal health.

Now is the time to start on a responsible path after years of financial recklessness.

Instilling discipline is not easy, saying "no" is not popular - but it is now or never for Illinois.

It is make or break time.

Before we can address next year's budget, we must first solve the current year's crisis.

As you know, the current budget was $1.6 billion in the hole when it was signed last year.

And the prior administration directed state agencies NOT to control their costs.

As a result, we are in the middle of a crisis that gets worse every day.

The Child Care Assistance Program is out of money and families are worried about how to care for their children.

Court reporters will start missing payroll next month, threatening to grind our justice system to a halt.

And our state prisons will start missing payroll in early April, making them unable to fulfill their most basic operations.

Everyone in this chamber understands the severity of what is immediately in front of us.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Leader Radogno and Leader Durkin -thank you for allowing your staffs to meet with our administration these past few weeks to find a responsible solution to our immediate budget crisis.

It appears that we are very close, literally days away, from a resolution. And every day counts.

Members of the General Assembly – now is the time for action.

It is time to solve this crisis.

Let's continue the Child Care Assistance Program. Let's keep our court rooms open.

Let's keep our corrections officers on duty.

Let's put the people of Illinois over partisan politics.

Solving this year's crisis will eliminate $1.6 billion from next year's deficit. Let's get it done.

Even after we solve this fiscal year's crisis, we will still be left with a budget hole of $6.2 billion for the coming fiscal year.

This huge deficit is the result of years of bad decisions, sleight-of-hand budgeting and giveaways we couldn't afford.

It is NOT the result of decreasing tax rates.

Some in the General Assembly are eager to discuss new revenue. But before revenue can be discussed, reform is essential.

Before we ask the people of Illinois to pay more to fund state government, we must ensure taxpayers are getting value for their money.

Asking for more of the taxpayers' hard-earned money without fundamentally reforming the structure of state government would further erode public confidence and accelerate our decline.

Waste and inefficiency are rampant in the system. Illinois government is currently designed to benefit those inside the system rather than the working families of our state.

We must institute major reforms, or whatever balanced budget we craft this year will be undone in the years ahead by the special interests that make their money from the government and pay politicians to spend more. We must eliminate conflicts of interest in state government and end our broken system.

These reforms won't be easy. Decades of special interest laws will be difficult to undo. But to be compassionate, we must be competitive. And that means having the political courage to put the people's interests first and the special interests last.

Our top priority for financial reform must be our pension system. That is true regardless of the Supreme Court's decision on SB 1.

Even if our pension systems were fully funded, taxpayers would still be on the hook for $2 billion.

But our pension systems are not fully funded. They are $111 billion in the hole-the worst pension crisis in America.

As it stands right now, one out of every four dollars taken from taxpayers by the state goes into a system that is giving more than ELEVEN THOUSAND government retirees tax-free, six-figure pensions worth as much as, in one case, $450,000 per year!

Without the reforms proposed in this budget, nearly 25 cents of every tax dollar will continue going into a broken pension system instead of into our social services safety net, our schools, or back into the pockets of taxpayers and small businesses!

Thatisunfairandunsustainable-anditchangeswiththisbudget.

Government employees deserve fair and competitive benefits, but we cannot continue to raise taxes on all Illinoisans in order to fund the retirement benefits of a small fraction of our residents.

The pension reform plan in this budget will protect every dollar of benefits earned to date.

Let me repeat that: the pension reform plan protects every dollar of benefits earned.

What you've earned, you're going to get.

And if you are retired, you get everything you were promised. That's fair and it's right.

But moving forward, all future work will be under the Tier 2 pension plan, except for our police and firefighters.

Those who put their lives on the line in service to our state deserve to be treated differently, and I believe the public will stand with me in this single case of special treatment.

This budget also gives employees hired before 2011 a choice to take a buyout option – a lump sum payment and a defined contribution plan in return for a voluntary reduction in cost-of-living adjustments. It's time to empower our workforce and address one of the biggest fiscal challenges we face.

These reforms will yield more than $2 billion in savings in the first year alone.

And by bringing health care benefits more in line with those received by the taxpayers who pay for them, we save an additional $700 million.

We recognize that some of these reforms cannot be achieved through legislation alone.

Some must be achieved through good faith bargaining, and I hope that those on the other side of the table are as committed as I am to achieving the types of meaningful reform that are necessary for Illinois' future.

While the state tightens its belt, so too must local governments and transportation agencies.

The amount of money transferred to local governments has grown 42 percent over the past decade. The state currently transfers $6 billion every year to local governments. Those governments are currently sitting on more than $15 billion in cash reserves.

The reduction in local government sharing in this budget is equal to just 3 percent of their total revenue.

Along with this modest cutback, our turnaround reforms will reduce unfunded mandates, and give local governments and voters the tools to save hundreds of millions of dollars through consolidation, employment flexibility and compensation restructuring.

Similarly, waste and inefficiency can be cut from the complex web that comprises our public transportation structure.

Statewide, our public transportation agencies spend billions of taxpayer dollars.

Our budget reductions for the state's largest transit agency amount to less than spercent of its overall budget, and here, too, the proposals in our turnaround agenda give our transportation entities the tools to save hundreds of millions of dollars.

Reining in these costs allows us to minimize reductions in other areas of the budget.

For Medicaid, our budget reduces costs significantly while maintaining eligibility levels for most lower-income Illinoisans.

We plan to re-implement many of the Medicaid reform measures that were enacted just a few years ago but have already been undone.

By re-instituting the SMART Act and prioritizing our re-determination efforts, we will save hundreds of millions of dollars.

Our budget will also reduce costs by fixing our broken criminal justice system.

Far too many offenders return to prison within three years of leaving – a vicious and costly cycle.

Our prisons are overcrowded.

Our corrections officers are overworked.

By reforming our criminal justice system we can make our prisons safer, rehabilitate ex-offenders so they become productive members of society, and save many tens of millions of dollars.

Taken together, our turnaround reforms, along with the difficult but necessary choices in this budget, will enable us to invest in our future.

Making these tough choices is a small price to pay for the promise of a better tomorrow for our children and grandchildren.

In the gallery today, we are joined by students from Lincoln Community High School in Lincoln, and Lanphier High School and Lincoln Magnate School in Springfield.

This budget allows us to invest in them.

For years, state support for education has been cut, even when it didn't have to be.

It's time to make education our top priority again – and that's what this budget does.

We start by increasing high-quality early childhood education options for our most vulnerable children.

Every dollar invested today in early childhood education saves us more than $7 in the future.

Increasing funding for our youngest is the smart AND the compassionate thing to do.

This budget also increases K-12 education funding by $300 million, helping school districts in our state that most need our support.

We have much more work to do to make our schools among the best in the nation, but we're proud of the commitment we are making in this budget.

What we proposed today is a turnaround budget.

It improves public safety, provides care for our most vulnerable, boosts funding for education, and restructures the core costs of state government that are holding us back.

However, while this budget begins to fix our financial problems, the only real answer to our challenges is to become pro-growth again.

We need a booming economy - more small businesses and entrepreneurs starting here, and more people and businesses moving here.

If we don't take action now to expand the economic pie, the people of Illinois will forever be left to fight over smaller and smaller slices.

Our citizens deserve a path to economic growth and empowerment – and that means putting people first and special interests last.

To grow our economy, we must enact meaningful workers compensation reform, unemployment insurance reform, lawsuit reform, pension reform and tax reform.

We've got to freeze property taxes, cut the red tape inside state and local government, and let people control their own economic destinies.

We need to end the corrupt bargains and the conflicts of interest. And we need to finally let the people have their say on a "Term Limits Amendment" to the state constitution.

If we make these reforms, we will be laying a solid foundation for economic growth and prosperity.

With reform, we will be able to:

Invest more in education and give our kids world class schools;

Invest more in our social safety net to help our most vulnerable residents;

And invest more in our infrastructure.

This turnaround plan reflects President Lincoln's call to "think anew and act anew."

In it, we end the irresponsible and reckless practices of the past, and make sure they will never happen again.

We make difficult choices that no one wants to make.

It is what this occasion requires.

And it's what we were elected to do - make choices based on what's best for the next generation, not the next election.

This is our last, best chance to get our house in order. Let's get it done.

Thank you. And God bless you.

At the hour of 12:29 o'clock p.m., President Cullerton moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise.
The motion prevailed.

The Senate having withdrawn, the House resumed its session.
Representative Madigan in the Chair.

At the hour of 12:30 o'clock p.m., Representative Currie moved that the House do now adjourn until Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk.
The motion prevailed.
And the House stood adjourned.

NO. 1

STATE OF ILLINOIS
NINETY-NINTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE ROLL CALL
QUORUM ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

February 18, 2015

0 YEAS 0 NAYS 116 PRESENT

P Acevedo	P Davis, Monique	P Kay	P Sandack
P Ammons	P Davis, William	P Kifowit	P Scherer
P Andersson	P DeLuca	P Lang	P Sente
P Andrade	P Demmer	P Leitch	P Sims
P Anthony	P Drury	P Lilly	P Smiddy
P Arroyo	P Dunkin	P Manley	P Sommer
P Batinick	P Durkin	P Martwick	P Sosnowski
P Beiser	P Evans	P Mautino	P Soto
P Bellock	P Feigenholtz	P Mayfield	P Stewart
P Bennett	P Fine	P McAsey	P Sullivan
P Bourne	P Flowers	P McAuliffe	P Tabares
P Bradley	P Ford	P McDermed	P Thapedi
P Brady	P Fortner	P McSweeney	P Tryon
P Brauer	P Franks	P Meier	P Turner
P Breen	P Frese	P Mitchell, Bill	P Unes
P Brown	E Gabel	P Mitchell, Christian	P Verschoore
P Bryant	P Golar	P Moeller	P Wallace
P Burke, Daniel	P Gordon-Booth	P Moffitt	P Walsh
P Burke, Kelly	P Guzzardi	P Morrison	P Wehrli
P Cabello	P Hammond	P Moylan	P Welch
P Cassidy	P Harris, David	P Mussman	P Wheeler, Barbara
P Cavaletto	P Harris, Greg	P Nekritz	P Wheeler, Keith
P Chapa LaVia	P Hays	P Phelps	P Williams
P Cloonen	P Hernandez	P Phillips	P Willis
P Conroy	P Hoffman	E Poe	P Winger
P Costello	P Hurley	P Pritchard	P Yingling
P Crespo	P Ives	P Reaves-Harris	P Zalewski
P Currie	P Jackson	P Reis	P Mr. Speaker
P D'Amico	P Jesiel	P Riley	
P Davidsmeyer	P Jones	P Rita	

E - Denotes Excused Absence

12TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

Perfunctory Session

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

At the hour of 3:22 o'clock p.m., the House convened perfunctory session.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 116

Offered by Representative Ammons:

WHEREAS, The Mahomet Aquifer system is an underground layer of water-bearing sand and gravel that fills a wide bedrock valley in all or parts of 14 east-central Illinois counties; the aquifer system is the source of approximately 53 million gallons of water every year for 120 public water systems and thousands of rural wells that serve about 500,000 people; and

WHEREAS, More than half of the population in east-central Illinois relies on the Mahomet Aquifer system as a source of their drinking water; and

WHEREAS, There are complex pathways between the surface and overlying aquifers to the principal aquifer in the eastern portion and no confining layer between the surface and the principal aquifer in the western portion, making the petitioned aquifer vulnerable to contamination; and

WHEREAS, The Safe Drinking Water Act gives the United States Environmental Protection Agency the authority to designate an aquifer as a sole or principal source of drinking water for a specified area; this designation allows the Environmental Protection Agency to review all federally-funded projects within the designated area to ensure they will not contaminate the aquifer; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency to classify the Mahomet Aquifer as a Sole Source Aquifer in order protect the residents of east-central Illinois and ensure they have clean drinking water for future generations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Coordinator William Spaulding, the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, and the Governor.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 125

Offered by Representative Costello:

WHEREAS, There is a need to educate our youth of the importance of protecting and conserving Illinois's precious natural resources; and

WHEREAS, By combining in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences, the Envirothon program is an excellent way to supplement environmental education inside and outside the traditional classroom; and

WHEREAS, The Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school-aged students in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, The Envirothon works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators, and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state, and/or provincial level; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is an active participant in the International Envirothon Competition; and

WHEREAS, Envirothon participants gain valuable knowledge and training in ecology and natural resource management principles, and practices, and the importance and limitations of soils, wildlife, aquatic ecosystems, forestry, and current important environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Envirothon has been responsible for more than 18,000 participating high school students being taught these important natural resource principles and issues since 1995; and

WHEREAS, It is important that the citizens of Illinois recognize the contributions of this event toward training our youth to be responsible caretakers of the State's precious natural resources; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate April 30, 2015 and April 28, 2016 as Envirothon Day throughout Illinois to bring recognition to the activities of the Envirothon program.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 127

Offered by Representative Christian Mitchell:

WHEREAS, During the 98th General Assembly, House Resolution 1188 created the House Illegal Gun Trafficking Task Force to develop a comprehensive plan to disrupt the flow of illegal guns in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The House Illegal Gun Trafficking Task Force was to submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The House Illegal Gun Trafficking Task Force needs additional time to complete its work; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the House Illegal Gun Trafficking Task Force shall submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly as required by House Resolution 1188 no later than April 30, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, with this extension, the House Illegal Gun Trafficking Task Force shall continue to operate as provided under House Resolution 1188 of the 98th General Assembly.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 128

Offered by Representative Jones:

WHEREAS, February 7, 2015 is the fourteenth annual commemoration and observance of National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, This observance is a nationwide effort to mobilize African-American communities to get educated, tested, involved, and treated for HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate African-American communities; and

WHEREAS, National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned, and strategically implemented by HIV/AIDS organizations to mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans account for 44% of people living with HIV, although they represent just 12% of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 43,000 residents of Illinois are living with HIV (including the undiagnosed) and 51% of people newly diagnosed with HIV are African-American; and

WHEREAS, Young African-American gay men under the age of 30 in Chicago have an infection rate three times greater than their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, At the current rate of infection, nationally 1 in 4 gay African-American men will become HIV-positive by the time they are 25, and 1 in 2 will have HIV by the time they are 35; and

WHEREAS, Of those African-Americans that are HIV-positive, fewer than half are prescribed antiretroviral therapy (HIV medication), and just 37% reach viral suppression; and

WHEREAS, Over two-thirds of women diagnosed with HIV in the United States are African-American; Center for Disease Control data reports that by race/ethnicity, African-American transgender women have the highest percentage of new HIV positive test results; and

WHEREAS, HIV medications taken daily (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP) have a greater than 90% chance of preventing HIV infection in people who are HIV-negative, but awareness of PrEP and access to PrEP is low in the most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly and administration failed to transfer money to the African-American American HIV/AIDS Response Fund resulting in an inability to make grants to organizations focused on fighting the epidemic in the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, Numerous organizations, faith-based institutions, public health entities, and impacted citizens are hosting community events to recognize this day and its importance to African-Americans and all concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we join with these local, national, and international groups to express our strong support for National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the initiatives to prevent HIV/AIDS in African-American communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate February 7, 2015 as National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Illinois, and encourage local residents to strongly support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 132

Offered by Representative Bill Mitchell:

WHEREAS, Downstate mass transit districts as created under the Local Mass Transit Act are a critical part of the State's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, A well-developed and maintained downstate mass transit system is important for the commuting public and is an essential element in the State's economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, The Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP), as a grant program to help develop and operate downstate public transportation services, provides up to 65% of eligible costs with each participant getting an annual appropriation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to DOAP, funding sources for the downstate mass transit districts come from federal grants, state grants, and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, According to summaries of the downstate mass transit districts' revenue for Fiscal Year 2013, the districts had a collective revenue of approximately $248.6 million and expenditures of $197.4 million; and

WHEREAS, There is interest concerning funding sources, appointing authority, and contractual authority of each of Illinois' downstate mass transit districts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is directed to conduct an audit of downstate mass transit districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the audit include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) an examination of the sources of funding for the downstate mass transit districts in Fiscal Year 2016, and a determination of whether the funding sources have significantly changed over the past 10 years;

(2) an examination of the board of trustees governing each downstate mass transit district, and the authority to appoint those trustees to the governing board; and

(3) an examination of the contractual authority held by each downstate mass transit district; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation and any other State agency or other entity having information relevant to this audit cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General's Office in the conduct of this Audit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as soon as possible and report its findings and recommendations upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution shall be presented to the Auditor General, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 133

Offered by Representative Evans:

WHEREAS, Employing youth is not only a vital and effective way to prevent violence, but it is also a means for encouraging youth to stay in school; it provides much-needed financial support to them and their families while serving as a critical stepping-stone to future employment; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the Illinois youth unemployment rate was 27%, a 10% decrease from 2006; Illinois is 1 of 10 states with the highest teen unemployment rate; the youth unemployment rate in Chicago is 19.6%; and

WHEREAS, African-American teens have the lowest unemployment rate compared to other ethnic and racial groups; African-American males aged 16-19, living in Chicago, face the most uncertainty in employment; and

WHEREAS, Almost 23% of the city's 20 to 24 year-olds were out of work and school, compared to less than 10% of Chicago's teens; and

WHEREAS, According to a report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, 92% of Chicago's African-American male teens were unemployed; only 6% of low-income African-American teens were employed in comparison with 13% of Hispanics and 25% White males from similar economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The report noted that students who do not work while in school face greater chances of dropping out of high school as well as having increased incidences of teenaged childbearing and juvenile delinquency and arrests; and

WHEREAS, The report also stated that higher rates of youth unemployment lead to increased tax burdens for other workers as governments forgo income tax revenue, Social Security, and Medicare taxes and have to pay out more in welfare and unemployment insurance costs; it is estimated that high youth unemployment costs various governments $25 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, Across Illinois, the teen employment rate fell from just under 50% in 2000 to 28% in 2012 - the lowest rate in the 42 years for which such data exist; if Illinois teens had been able to maintain their 1999-2000 employment rates during the past year, there would have been another 151,000 teens at work in Illinois in 2011-2012; and

WHEREAS, The investment to hire youth is lower than hiring seasoned individuals; companies have the opportunity to train newcomers possibly, for their own businesses or outside prospects; and

WHEREAS, Younger individuals are more technologically advanced and possess more unique skill sets that can benefit any company; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage businesses to employ teens and young adults in order to help alleviate the youth unemployment that contributes to the demise of communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That employers would be not only providing a critical asset for their own businesses but preparing the next generation to become productive citizens of society.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 134

Offered by Representative Ford:

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes the safety dilemma that replica guns pose to the public and the persons who carry them; and

WHEREAS, These replica guns are identical in appearance to real firearms and are indistinguishable from fully functioning firearms; and

WHEREAS, Even law enforcement officers have a difficulty distinguishing them from real firearms; and

WHEREAS, The inability of law enforcement officers to distinguish replica guns from real firearms has resulted in tragedy such as the incident in Cleveland, Ohio, where a 12-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, who had

been reported to police for displaying a gun in a park and was shot dead by police as he reached for the replica gun; and

WHEREAS, The problem of replica guns is a national issue and should be addressed by uniform legislation by Congress; and

WHEREAS, We urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would require the manufacturers of replica guns to design them to be distinguishable from real firearms so as to protect the public and law enforcement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Congress of the United States to require replica gun manufacturers to design these guns to be bright colors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this Resolution be presented to each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 135

Offered by Representative Ford:

WHEREAS, Homeless youth have a higher crime rate than those with stable housing; an estimated number of approximately 26,400 youth experience homelessness in Illinois over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, a state-wide study of homeless youth found that 22% had been kept in juvenile detention, at the average cost of $53,645 per student annually; and

WHEREAS, One method of mitigating this growing problem is to get homeless youth active in pursuing post-secondary education; homeless youth are severely underrepresented in the university population and are often held back due to the lack of funding for housing, leaving a cycle of inhibition; and

WHEREAS, In order to combat this trend, an initiative has been proposed that would provide housing scholarships to students in undergraduate colleges and universities who self-report as homeless; the program would give these students aid in paying for non-campus housing, which would allow for these students to attend a university without the worry of finding funding for housing; applicants would be required to get a Homeless Status Certification from the Secretary of State Driver Services department and be full-time students; and

WHEREAS, This program would allow some of our most vulnerable citizens to receive a quality education and become productive members of society; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the boards of trustees of every public university in the State of Illinois to adopt a program that provides housing scholarships to college students that are registered as homeless and to include funding for this program in their appropriations requests to the General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent to the boards of trustees of the 9 public universities in the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 136

Offered by Representative Reaves-Harris:

WHEREAS, The mission of the West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders is to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public and private non-profit agencies, and federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions that are working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth; and

WHEREAS, The West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders also seeks to reduce substance abuse among adults over time by addressing the factors in communities that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, The West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders' purpose is to create opportunities through programs, activities, and events to help direct youth towards positive alternatives to violence, as well as teaching them how to become productive citizens through positive civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, The West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders' vision is to engage a partnership of residents, parents, youth, educational institutions, organizations, and public servants with a common goal to reduce violence within the West Garfield Park community; and

WHEREAS, The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has directed the Drug Free Communities Support Program, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to provide grants to coalitions that mobilize their communities to prevent youth alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug, and inhalant abuse; and

WHEREAS, As a New-Grantee of the office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the West Garfield Park Community Stakeholders is working within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework to develop and secure the following core competencies: assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, evaluation, sustainability, and cultural competence; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date of October 5, 2015 as West Garfield Park Community Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention Day in the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 137

Offered by Representatives Representative Ford:

WHEREAS, Article X of the Illinois Constitution states that: "A fundamental goal of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. The State shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services. Education in public schools through the secondary level shall be free."; and

WHEREAS, The community of Austin on Chicago's West Side is the largest by population of the city's 77 officially defined community areas; the area is over 87% African-American and has a population of about 117,000, of which about 14,000 are of high school-age; Austin, like the other communities of the West Side, continues to suffer from the past recession; and

WHEREAS, Austin Community Academy High School was a public 4-year high school in the Austin neighborhood; during the mid-twentieth century, Austin High School was considered one of the best high schools in the Chicago area; in later years, however, Austin suffered from low test scores, low attendance, and student violence; the Chicago Public School system subsequently began phasing it out in 2004, ordering the school to stop admitting new freshman; the last graduations were held in June of 2007 and the phase-out was completed by the end of summer in 2007; its successor, Austin Community Academy, was open for one year before it was shut down by Mayor Richard M. Daley; and

WHEREAS, The campus that formerly housed Austin Community Academy High School is now home to 3 smaller schools, Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy High School, Austin Polytechnical Academy, and VOISE Academy High School, which have a total attendance of 1,038 students, compared to the 6,000 students the academy held; and

WHEREAS, It is widely felt that these 3 schools do not adequately serve the entire student population of the Austin community and that, if Chicago Public School leaders don't create more high school seats in the West Side neighborhood, more youth will end up in the streets of Chicago's toughest areas; Austin has no public option for high school, forcing students to either travel long distances, apply for selective magnet schools to which they have little chance of acceptance, or drop out of school entirely; and

WHEREAS, On April 24, 2014, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced plans to build the Barack Obama College Preparatory High School, with selective enrollment open for the 2017-2018 school year; the Chicago Public School system is collecting ideas and proposals for more than 40 of the school buildings it shuttered in last year's massive school closings on a website the district launched, and the Chicago Board of Education has asked members of the public and community groups to submit proposals for the old school sites, including the old Emmet School sites; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Board of Education continues to invest in the improvement of Rockne Stadium just south of the proposed site to be used as an athletic field for team sports; $700,000 in improvements to the CPS-owned stadium were recently announced; and

WHEREAS, A new high school built on the 133,600 square-foot site of the old Emmet School in Chicago, which has been given the proposed name of West Side Unity High School, would ensure that the student population of the Austin community could receive the quality education that they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Building a new high school on the site of the old Emmet School would ensure that the Chicago Public School system would not have to find and purchase a new site, since the proposed site is already owned by CPS; in addition, the land qualifies as a TIF area, which would help fund any new construction project with over $20,000,000; this decision would also rid the Austin community of an eyesore that has proven to be a detriment on the safety and values of properties and businesses in the community and replace it with a building that will reduce crime and increase property values for families on the West Side; and

WHEREAS, Building a new high school at this location would also place it on Madison Street, a street that features numerous public transportation options to enable many students to reach the school safely and easily; and

WHEREAS, Building 2 new high schools simultaneously, utilizing the same blueprints, could prove to be a more cost-effective solution to the problems faced by those on Chicago's West Side; and

WHEREAS, Numerous schools in Chicago's West Side could serve as feeders for a new school at the old Emmet site, including Austin neighborhood schools and Ellington, GR Clark, DePriest, Spencer, Hay, Nash, Brunson, McNair, Lovett, and Young Schools; and

WHEREAS, In this month when we honor the fight that resulted in the Brown v. Board of Education decision, let us come together in our own fight for equal educational opportunities for all; we must fight and work to end racism in education, mass incarceration, and senseless death due to violence; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and all stakeholders to work together to bring a school to the Chicago's West Side to help meet the needs of the tax-paying families in those communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we congratulate President Barack Obama on the dedication of the Barack Obama College Preparatory High School after him and commend Mayor Rahm Emanuel for expanding more opportunities for educational success for families of Chicago; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Governor to come together to bring a new high school to Chicago's West Side; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Bruce Rauner.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 138

Offered by Representative Ford:

WHEREAS, Research has found that non-violent youth are less likely to become further involved in criminal behavior if they remain in their home communities and if appropriate services are available that address underlying needs such as mental illness, substance abuse, learning disabilities, unstable living arrangements, and dysfunctional parenting; it has also been demonstrated that it is less expensive than a sentence to the Department of Juvenile Justice; and

WHEREAS, Redeploy Illinois is designed to provide services to youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who are at high risk of being committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice; a fiscal incentive is provided to counties to provide services to youth within their home communities by building a continuum of care for youth who are in the juvenile justice system; counties link youth to a wide array of needed services and supports within the home community, as indicated through an individualized needs assessment; services are provided in the least restrictive manner possible, and can include case management, court advocacy, education assistance, individual/family/group counseling, and crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, The average annual cost to serve a youth in the Redeploy program in 2013 was approximately 6% of the annual cost to house a youth in the Department of Juvenile Justice; in 2013, the average per capita cost to house a youth at the Department of Juvenile Justice was a reported $111,000; in 2013, 352 youth received full Redeploy Illinois program services with an appropriation of $2,385,100; this equates to an annual Redeploy program cost per youth of $6,776; in 2012, 238 fewer youth were committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice because of the Redeploy Illinois program, saving Illinois taxpayers nearly $11.7 million in unnecessary incarceration costs for 2012; the Redeploy Illinois program reduced overall Department of Juvenile Justice commitments in the 4 pilot sites by nearly 50% (599 fewer youth) over the 5 years relative to the 3-year baseline average; research found that court evaluation commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice in these sites were reduced by 87% over the 5 years relative to the 3-year

baseline average; in the first 8 years of the program, participating counties sent 1,036 juveniles to the Department of Juvenile Justice; this was a steep decline from the projected 2,268 youth that were likely to have been sent based on the previous 3-year commitment trend; it represents a 54% reduction in Department of Juvenile Justice commitments over the life of the program; through 2012, the Redeploy program diverted 1,232 youth saving the State a conservative $60,000,000 in unnecessary incarceration costs; each funded Redeploy Illinois program site is required by statute and contract to reduce its commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice by a minimum of 25% compared to their baseline; in 2012, compared to the 3-year baseline, the 8 Redeploy Illinois program sites in operation combined to reduce eligible Department of Juvenile Justice commitments in their counties by 64%; and

WHEREAS, Based on its success, the Redeploy Illinois program was expanded from 4 sites to 8 in January 2009; serving nearly 25% of all Illinois counties, the Redeploy sites continued to effectively reduce the incarceration of hundreds of youth while also holding the line on the use of local detention; many counties in Illinois lack the resources to effectively serve delinquent youth locally; a lack of local programs and services plays a significant role in the court's decision to commit a youth to a correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, The funds provided to the Redeploy sites fills the gaps in their continuum of services, allowing them to cost-effectively serve youth in their home communities and reduce the system's reliance on corrections; this progressive effort to build on the work done in other states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania, which successfully reduced juvenile incarceration rates through similarly structured programs, is paying off; 2010 cost benefit analysis indicated that on average, the 8 Redeploy sites reduced their commitments in 2010 by 53% from their baselines; according to the per capita cost of incarcerating one juvenile in Department of Juvenile Justice, this decrease in commitments translates to a $9,038,927 cost avoidance for the State; youth are being successfully treated in their own communities and kept from the devastation of incarceration, saving the State money, reducing the number of crime victims, and creating safer communities across Illinois; and

WHEREAS, P.A. 98-0060 provides that in a county with a population exceeding 2,000,000, the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board may authorize the Department of Human Services to enter into an agreement with that county to reduce the number of commitments of juvenile offenders, except that the agreement may encompass a clearly identifiable geographical subdivision of that county; the geographical subdivision may include, but is not limited to, a police district or group of police districts, a geographical area making up a court calendar or group of court calendars, a municipal district or group of municipal districts, or a municipality or group of municipalities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Department of Human Services and Cook County to enter into all Redeploy Illinois agreements allowable pursuant to P.A. 98-0060; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board, the Cook County Board President, the Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the General Assembly.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 140

Offered by Representative Brown:

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General Assembly to adopt a law similar to Virginia Code Title 18.2, Chapter 5, Section 18.2-85 to prohibit the possession of materials from which fire bombs, explosive materials, or devices can be made with the intent to manufacture fire bombs, explosive materials, or devices; prohibit the manufacture, transport, distribution, possession, or use of a fire bomb, explosive material, or device; and prohibit the construction, use, placement, sending, or causing to be sent a hoax explosive device with the intent to cause another to believe the device is a bomb or explosive; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be made available to the members of the General Assembly upon request.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 141

Offered by Representative Lilly:

WHEREAS, All citizens of Illinois should be made aware of the ever-present dangers posed by potentially poisonous household substances; and

WHEREAS, Children too often have access to over-the-counter and prescription medications and potentially toxic household products; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 50 years, the nation has been observing National Poison Prevention Week to help prevent accidental poisonings and tips for promoting community involvement in poison prevention; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Poison Center has been providing timely poison prevention and treatment services to the people of Illinois for over 60 years as the oldest and one of the largest poison centers in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Poison Center is a mainstay in the emergency medical care system of the State of Illinois and is recognized nationally for its contributions to poison treatment and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent of the more than 80,000 poisonings reported last year to the Illinois Poison Center involved children under the age of 5 and could have been prevented; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Poison Center manages approximately 90% of cases from the general public at home, saving the State of Illinois over $52 million in reduced health care and lost productivity costs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate March of 2015 as Poison Prevention Month in the State of Illinois and urge all Illinoisans to educate themselves about the potentially harmful substances in their homes and take steps to create healthy and safe home, play, and work environments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Illinois Poison Center.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 144

Offered by Representative Zalewski:

WHEREAS, Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads easily through the air or on infected surfaces; it causes rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes; people who are infected with measles can spread the virus for up to 4 days before developing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Measles affect all organs of the body, and can cause serious and, in some cases, fatal complications in children, including pneumonia and encephalitis; and

WHEREAS, A non-immunized person or child has a 90% chance of getting the measles if they come in contact with an infected person; and

WHEREAS, The measles vaccine has been shown in numerous studies to be one of the most safe and effective vaccines available; and

WHEREAS, High immunization rates in a community will protect those who cannot be vaccinated, including children undergoing cancer treatment and infants under 12 months of age, who are at the highest risk of serious illness, hospitalization, or death due to measles; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians all recommend that children receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine at the age of 12-15 months, and again at 4-6 years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage the Illinois Department of Public Health to promulgate administrative rules pursuant to the requirement for health examinations and immunizations within the School Code and to encourage higher rates of vaccinations and to expedite this process in order to have such rules in place for the 2015-16 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 146

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, The Social Security Fairness Act of 2013 was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on April 26, 2013 as H.R. 1795 and into the U.S. Senate on May 8, 2013 as S. 896; and

WHEREAS, The Social Security Fairness Act of 2013 was to amend Title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision; and

WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset was enacted in 1977 and the Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983; and

WHEREAS, The majority of public employees affected by the Government Pension Offset lost their entire spousal benefit despite the fact that their spouses paid Social Security contributions for many years; and

WHEREAS, An affected public employee loses an average of $3,000 per year because of the Government Pension Offset; and

WHEREAS, The Windfall Elimination Provision causes public employees to lose up to 60% of the benefits that they earned; and

WHEREAS, According to the Social Security Administration's actuaries, the long-term cost of eliminating both of these provisions is negligible while the loss of income to affected employees caused by these provisions forces some civil servants into poverty; and

WHEREAS, These provisions discriminate against teachers, police, firefighters, social workers, and other civil servants; and

WHEREAS, The State and national shortage of teachers, police officers, and firefighters is exacerbated by these provisions because they discourage people from entering and staying in these professions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the U.S. Congress to introduce and pass legislation that eliminates both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 147

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, On November 20, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention) to promote basic human rights for all children; and

WHEREAS, The Convention aims to protect children from discrimination, neglect, and abuse by establishing a full range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights; and

WHEREAS, With the exception of the United States, South Sudan, and Somalia, every other member state of the United Nations - 193 countries - have ratified and accepted the Convention; and

WHEREAS, Although the United States had considerable influence in the drafting of the Convention and subsequently signed it on February 16, 1995, the Convention has never been presented to the U.S. Senate for advise and consent - the necessary and final step to U.S. ratification; and

WHEREAS, Without U.S. Senate approval, the Convention has no effect on children living in the United States, thereby leaving them without the protections contained within this important treaty; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has previously called the United States' failure to ratify the Convention "embarrassing" and promised to conduct an internal review of this matter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge President Obama to submit the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent without delay, and further call on the U.S. Senate to move swiftly to approve the Convention.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 148

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, The Medicare Rights Center (MRC) published "Medicare: A National Treasure for Forty Years" (2005); the Medicare program was created as part of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, and the program will celebrate its 50th anniversary on July 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The MRC's findings are still valid, to wit: the Medicare program has become a national treasure, reflecting the nation's commitment to the health and independence of older Americans and Americans with disabilities by providing health care coverage to 45 million people; and

WHEREAS, The original design of the Medicare program - its universality, shared risk, simplicity, and dependability - created the foundation for its 50 years of success; Medicare's universal nature ensures that virtually all older Americans and many people with disabilities receive the health care they need, while Medicare pools risk in order to share the financial burdens of illness across healthy and sick individuals and affluent and low-income families; for 50 years, Medicare has guaranteed coverage for a defined set of benefits at a uniform and predictable cost to all seniors and to people with disabilities regardless of their income, health status, or where they live and has dramatically improved the quality of life for millions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, Among the most important reasons to celebrate the past 50 years of Medicare are: (1) guaranteed access to care for people with Medicare; (2) improved quality of life for older Americans and people with disabilities; (3) administrative efficiency and cost containment; (4) critical support for America's healthcare system; and (5) guaranteed benefits and choice of providers; and

WHEREAS, Prior to Medicare, only half of older adults had health insurance; private insurers were unable or unwilling to provide comprehensive, affordable health care coverage to the growing aged population, who were either too old or too sick and therefore too high an insurance risk; through the guarantee of Medicare coverage, the federal government established protections for all people with Medicare that ensure that everyone - including those battling costly illnesses - have access to covered services; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the second largest source of federal spending for HIV care and treatment, and approximately one out of every five HIV-positive Americans receiving regular medical care depends, at least in part, on the Medicare program; and

WHEREAS, Medicare has also improved access to care in other ways; for example, Medicare was, and continues to be, instrumental in reducing disparities in access and coverage for racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, A 2001 survey demonstrates that people with Medicare are generally more satisfied with their health care than are persons under age 65 who are covered by private insurance; people with Medicare report fewer problems getting access to care, greater confidence about their access, and fewer instances of financial hardship as a result of medical bills; Medicare creates access to health care across many dimensions: access to physician services; access to necessary care; and reduced financial barriers to care; older Americans with Medicare experience comparatively fewer financial barriers to care; and

WHEREAS, By the year 2030, 20% of the U.S. population - 77 million people - will be eligible for Medicare, compared to the 14% of Americans who are Medicare-eligible today; while Medicare gives all Americans a sense of security knowing their parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors can access the health care they need, before long the next generation of Americans will need to count on Medicare too; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to Medicare, millions of Americans are able to afford life-saving care, but Medicare also improves the quality of life for older Americans in other ways; for example, Medicare is also a social safety net that has lifted millions of people out of poverty; in fact, since Medicare was created in 1965, poverty among the elderly has been reduced by nearly two-thirds; by financing health care services, Medicare safeguards beneficiaries and their families from the ruinous costs of medical treatments and prevents individuals from spending unmanageable proportions of their incomes on medical care or being pushed into poverty by their medical bills; in addition, life expectancy has increased by three years and more people are living past the age of 85 than ever before, while disability rates among the elderly are decreasing; with improvements in Medicare coverage for preventive services, such as breast and prostate cancer screening, and advances in care management for people with chronic conditions, further reductions in morbidity and disability can be expected; and

WHEREAS, Equally important in assessing Medicare's success is Medicare's cost-effectiveness; Medicare has consistently contained health care costs better than private health plans; analysis of cumulative spending over a 30-year period further illustrates Medicare's ability to control costs over time; Medicare has been able to accomplish this cost-containment record, in part, by using its resources more efficiently, assessing the clinical effectiveness of services when making coverage decisions and when setting payment rates for certain services; and

WHEREAS, Medicare's payment structure supports the United States' health system infrastructure; for example, Medicare supports the nation's teaching hospitals and educational opportunities for health care professionals, through enhanced payments; by supporting graduate education for physicians and other providers, Medicare benefits all Americans, whether or not they are covered by Medicare; Medicare also provides extra support to hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of low-income patients and to rural hospitals, which are often more heavily dependent on Medicare reimbursement than other facilities; Medicare also provides enhanced payments to rural health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers in medically underserved areas to ensure that care is available for vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the largest single payer for services provided by the 7,000 home health agencies nationwide; moreover, Medicare is an essential part of the entire U.S. economy as well as a pillar of the health system; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is simple, popular and reliable; seniors are very satisfied with the Medicare program; Medicare's success is related to the unparalleled choice and availability of physicians and health care services that it offers people; and

WHEREAS, Medicare has served Americans well; it is equally available to all seniors and to people with disabilities, regardless of health or financial status, and realizes the right to health care for many of America's most vulnerable individuals; Medicare continues to symbolize a rational, just and systematic approach to health care access for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) has prompted significant changes to the Medicare program; the MMA established a new outpatient prescription drug benefit - Medicare Part D - for people with Medicare coverage, and replaced Medicaid drug coverage with the new Part D program for people who receive health coverage from both Medicare and Medicaid; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we celebrate the past 50 years of Medicare and urge the United States Congress to make sure that the millions of seniors and Americans with disabilities who rely on it will be able to enjoy its dependability and simplicity in the years to come; Medicare's successes to date should guide future changes to the program, so that it can continue to ensure access to care, improve quality of life, support the health care system, and enjoy broad support among the people whom it helps every day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That strengthening Medicare and improving the Medicare Part D drug program should be a vital part of any reform of the American health care system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to President Barack Obama and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 149

Offered by Representative Willis:

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is a public holiday that is dedicated to honoring those who have served in the United States Armed Forces; the day was declared a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919; and

WHEREAS, The holiday was originally known as Armistice Day; the date of November 11 was chosen as the official date in reference to the armistice that ended World War I; and

WHEREAS, Armistice Day officially became Veterans Day in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has the 10th largest veteran population in the United States; Illinois veterans have proven themselves worthy time and time again by serving in several of the nation's toughest and most difficult assignments with bravery and valor; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is an official Illinois State holiday for government employees; most federal workers are given the day off and there is no mail service in the United States on this day; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge all employers in the State of Illinois to provide each employee who is a veteran with paid or unpaid time off for Veterans Day, November 11, if the employee would otherwise be required to work on that day.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 152

Offered by Representative Cloonen:

WHEREAS, Career and technical education is a valuable learning opportunity offered in most high schools, area career and technical centers, community and technical colleges, and other post-secondary institutions throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education strives to develop confident and creative builders of their own future by preparing students to select viable career paths and obtain the training and skills essential for continuing education and a successful future; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education provides students with leadership opportunities in various fields and allows them to experience real-world practical and technical application of reading, writing, and mathematical skills; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education provides students with work-based learning experiences and soft-skills training; and

WHEREAS, During the month of February, we encourage both youth and adults in the State of Illinois to learn more about career and technical education in order to recognize the significance to ensure Illinois students are well prepared for secondary education and a career; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate February of 2015 as Career and Technical Education Month in the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 155

Offered by Representative Moffitt:

WHEREAS, Depleted uranium is the matter left over when most of the highly radioactive types of uranium are removed for use as nuclear fuel or nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, The United States Military uses tank armor and some bullets made with depleted uranium to penetrate enemy armored vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The manufacturing of enriched uranium from natural uranium used in reactors or weapons leaves behind "depleted" uranium; and

WHEREAS, Depleted uranium has 40% less radioactivity, but the exact same chemical toxicity as natural uranium; and

WHEREAS, When a projectile containing depleted uranium penetrates a vehicle, small pieces of the uranium can become embedded in muscle and soft tissue; and

WHEREAS, Service members exposed to depleted uranium may have also inhaled or swallowed small airborne particles of depleted uranium; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, some veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn may have been exposed to depleted uranium as a result of being in or near a vehicle that was hit by friendly fire, entering or being near burning vehicles, being near fires involving depleted uranium munitions, or from salvaging damaged vehicles; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, no health problems associated with depleted uranium exposure have been found in veterans exposed to it; and

WHEREAS, Many service members who believed they were exposed to depleted uranium have gone overseas for a more sophisticated urine test to detect for exposure; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Aaron Barnes of Fulton County served in Iraq for 26 months and became ill a year after his 2nd deployment; and

WHEREAS, Tests were performed which showed a large mass on his kidney; he told doctors at the Iowa City VA Hospital that he believed it was a result of exposure to depleted uranium during his deployments in Iraq; after being told that the mass was not a result of depleted uranium exposure, he was sent home without a biopsy or additional testing; after having the mass removed from his kidney, a biopsy showed a rare cancer had developed; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Barnes began chemotherapy treatment following the removal of the mass from his kidney; he passed away on August 24, 2011, leaving behind his wife, Mandy, and 2 children, Emma and David; and

WHEREAS, Servicemembers who believe they were exposed to depleted uranium have had a difficult time in the VA system while being tested and treated for exposure; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs to thoroughly study the effects of depleted uranium exposure on Illinois servicemembers and veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 156

Offered by Representative Sosnowski:

WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) has a program authorized by P.A. 92-0240 that allows the Department to issue temporary identification cards to inmates about to be released from the Department's custody; and

WHEREAS, The temporary identification card is valid for 30 days following the prisoner's release from DOC's custody; and

WHEREAS, The DOC is required to charge the inmate $1 for the issuance of the temporary ID card; and

WHEREAS, In order to be issued a DOC temporary ID card, an inmate must provide a copy of his or her Social Security Card and a certified copy of his or her birth certificate; and

WHEREAS, Both the Social Security Card and the birth certificate must agree with the name on the inmate's committing court documents, however, this can be waived if a copy of a marriage license or court documents authorizing a legal name change shown on the Social Security Card and committing court documents is shown; and

WHEREAS, According to P.A. 92-0240, a released inmate with a DOC temporary identification card may present the card to the Office of the Secretary of State upon application for a standard Illinois Identification Card in accordance with the Illinois Identification Card Act; and

WHEREAS, Many released inmates have had problems taking his or her DOC issued ID card to the Office of the Secretary of State in order to obtain a standard Illinois Identification Card due to the Office of Secretary of State's non-acceptance of the ID card as a valid form of identification to use in obtaining a standard Identification Card; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rauner signed Executive Order 15-14, which established the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform will examine the entirety of the current criminal justice system and sentencing structure and develop comprehensive and evidence-based strategies to improve public safety; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform will analyze all aspects of the current system from the initial arrest to re-entry into the community; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform to examine the Department of Corrections issuance of temporary identification cards and whether those cards are sufficient for the purposes of obtaining a standard Illinois Identification Card, consistent with P.A. 92-0240; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Governor, members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160

Offered by Representative Greg Harris:

WHEREAS, Approximately 1.5 million Illinois adults and more than 300,000 Illinois children have a mental illness, and approximately 850,000 adults and 62,000 youth in Illinois have a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, suicide due to the presence of a mental health condition was the third leading cause of death for children between the ages of 10 and 14, and the second leading cause of death for youth and adults between the ages of 15 and 34; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that community-based/outpatient mental health treatment, combined with the appropriate medications, is highly effective in treating mental illnesses and enabling recovery, more than two-thirds of Illinois children and 59% of adults living with a mental illness do not receive a diagnosis or treatment; this lack of access to treatment results in severe disability for those with untreated serious mental illnesses, the costs of which are borne by taxpayers for the remainder of the person's life; and

WHEREAS, The evidence is clear - when treatment is available early on following the signs of a mental illness, youth are less likely to drop out of school, turn to substance use, or engage in self-injurious or criminal behaviors; they are also able to more effectively manage their mental illness over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Similar to other states, mental health and substance use treatment services and supports are primarily publicly-funded; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades, limited access to mental health care and substance use treatment has resulted in substantial increases in homelessness, institutionalization, and incarceration due to untreated serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, The estimated average cost of an emergency room visit in Illinois is $2,027, while the estimated average cost of a psychiatric hospitalization is $4,301; from 2009 to 2012, during the years of the deepest cuts to community mental health, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations of individuals with untreated mental illnesses cost Illinois $123.3 million; without sustained treatment, this cycle continues unabated and often results in homelessness, incarceration, or institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of community-based service providers, and due to a lack of State investment in community mental health services and adequate reimbursement rates, too many Illinois citizens lack access to evidence-based treatments and robust support services which are proven to produce better health outcomes and reduce costs; and

WHEREAS, On March 31, 2014, Congress passed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, which included provisions establishing a demonstration program that creates state Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics; Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are intended to serve individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders and will provide intensive, person-centered, multidisciplinary, evidence-based screening, assessment, diagnostics, treatment, prevention, and wellness services, with a strong emphasis on care coordination; and

WHEREAS, This Act provides for the single largest federal investment in community-based mental and substance use treatment in decades; and

WHEREAS, The Act provides that $25 million will be made available as planning grants to states to develop applications to participate in the 2-year pilot; only the states receiving planning grants will be eligible to participate in the pilot; and

WHEREAS, During the duration of the pilot, states with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics will receive an enhanced Federal Matching Assistance Percentage for the services provided by the clinics; and

WHEREAS, On February 2, 2015, the Secretary for the United States Department of Health and Human Services released draft criteria for a clinic to be certified by a state, with guidance for establishing a prospective payment system for the clinics expected by September 2015; and

WHEREAS, By January 1, 2016, the Secretary for the United States Department of Health and Human Services will award the planning grants; by September l, 2017, the Secretary will select the 8 states that will participate in the demonstration; and

WHEREAS, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics will have uniform certification criteria in the areas of staffing, availability and accessibility of services, care coordination, scope of services, quality, and other reporting and organizational authority, thus ensuring the quality of services provided by the clinics; and

WHEREAS, States interested in pursuing Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics should demonstrate the potential to expand available services in a demonstration area and increase the quality of services without increasing net federal spending; and

WHEREAS, By being a catalyst for driving change in Illinois' mental health and substance use treatment systems, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics will be an important component in Illinois' overall Medicaid payment and delivery system reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, Given the limited scope of the demonstration program, it is in the best interests of the State of Illinois to engage in efforts aimed at securing a planning grant; unless Illinois pursues and receives a planning grant, it is prohibited from participating in the demonstration program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage Governor Rauner's Administration, including the Department of Human Services Divisions of Mental Health and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and the Governor's Office to prioritize a plan aimed at securing and submitting an application for a planning grant for the State of Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the aforementioned groups to collaborate in this effort with key stakeholders, including organizations representing individuals with serious mental illnesses, community-based mental health providers, substance use treatment facilities, federally-qualified health centers, hospitals, supportive housing providers, and rural health clinics; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Secretary of Human Services, and the Director of Healthcare and Family Services.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

Offered by Representative Sosnowski:

WHEREAS, Our founding fathers declared independence from Great Britain after suffering from violations of their rights and the abuses of taxation from the British government as a result of hereditary rule; and

WHEREAS, After seeing firsthand the abominable effects of single, long-term rule our founding fathers chose republicanism instead of a monarchy and hereditary rule; and

WHEREAS, Even before the United States Constitution was drafted, the founding fathers believed in terms limits, as the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776 set a maximum service of 3 years in the Pennsylvania General Assembly followed by a mandatory 4-year break; and

WHEREAS, During the Constitutional Convention, Thomas Jefferson urged term limits as part of law "to prevent every danger which might arise to American freedom by continuing too long in office the members of the Continental Congress"; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson's sentiment was established in the Articles of Confederation as "no person shall be capable of being a delegate [to the Continental Congress] for more than 3 years in any term of 6 years"; and

WHEREAS, Although term limits were not written into the Constitution, President George Washington established a precedent for a 2-term rule, as he left office despite public urging that he remain in office; and

WHEREAS, Lack of term limits has placed a great strain on state governments, as well as the United States Congress, as long-serving members have forgotten the wise words of our founding fathers and legislative politics has taken a more encompassing role than that of citizens' needs; and

WHEREAS, A lack of term limits contributes to one-party rule, a travesty that is further enhanced by electoral district boundaries drawn by state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, Redistricting of electoral district boundaries, when done by state legislatures, leads to legislative politics as members try to maintain power; and

WHEREAS, Electoral district boundaries should be drawn by an independent entity, without thought of political party; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to reduce the role of large private contributions in Presidential elections, Congress created a public funding program that uses tax dollars to match the first $250 of each individual contribution that an eligible Presidential candidate receives during the primary campaign to fund the major-party nominees' general election campaigns and to assist eligible minor-party nominees; and

WHEREAS, Many states have seen the influence of large private contributions in state elections, and many of those contributors expect payback in the form of earmarks, contracts, or plum government appointments; and

WHEREAS, Because of the corrupting influence of money, many Americans have lost faith in politics and government; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois sees the need for a convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns, including those raised by the lack of term limits, the practice of redistricting established by state legislatures, and the influence of large private contributions in state elections; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois desires that the delegates to the convention be composed equally of individuals currently elected to State and local office or be selected by election in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates; however, all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, shall be prohibited from serving as delegates to the Convention; the State of Illinois intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois intends that this be a continuing application, considered together with applications calling for a convention and all others passed, pending, and future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Illinois notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a Convention and that Convention is convened by Congress; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we hereby make application to the Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention for proposing amendments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this application be deemed an application for a convention to address each or any of the subjects listed in this resolution; for purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention addressing any subject, this application is to be aggregated with the applications of any other state legislatures limited to one or more of the subjects listed in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution constitutes a continuing application and remains in effect until repeal by any sitting session of the legislature of this State; this application does not constitute a recognition that any particular activity or activities currently undertaken by the federal government is or are authorized by the Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate; the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress; the Archivist of the United States; the members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from this State; and the presiding officers of each of the legislative chambers in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Offered by Representative Brauer:

WHEREAS, The College of DuPage Board of Trustees recently voted to approve a buyout package for President Dr. Robert Breuder in the amount of $750,000; and

WHEREAS, As part of an agreement that was already reached between the Board of Trustees and Dr. Breuder, the school's Homeland Security Education Center will be named in honor of Dr. Breuder; and

WHEREAS, Many taxpayers and local residents have voiced strong opposition to the severance package agreed to by the Board of Trustees and Dr. Breuder; and

WHEREAS, The name of Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller has been offered as an alternative to Dr. Breuder's in the naming of the Homeland Security Education Center; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller grew up in Wheaton and graduated from Wheaton North High School in 2002; and

WHEREAS, After attending one year of college at the University of Iowa, Staff Sgt. Miller joined the United States Army in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller enlisted as a Special Forces trainee in August of 2003 and graduated from Infantry Basic Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia in January of 2004; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in September of 2004, and the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course in March of 2005; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller was deployed to Afghanistan from August of 2006 to March of 2007 and received 2 Army Commendation Medals for Valor for his actions under enemy fire; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller returned to Afghanistan in October of 2007, serving as a Weapons Sergeant for his team; and

WHEREAS, On January 25, 2008, Staff Sgt. Miller was leading a team of Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition soldiers when they were attacked by insurgents; and

WHEREAS, Under intense enemy fire, Staff Sgt. Miller remained at the front of the patrol and laid down suppressive fire to allow his wounded commander to be pulled out of the line of fire; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller was killed in action while protecting his fellow soldiers and Afghan security forces; and

WHEREAS, The heroic actions of Staff Sgt. Miller saved the lives of 7 American soldiers and 15 Afghan soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Miller was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama at the White House on October, 6 2010; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Wheaton Warrenville Unit District 200 renamed the Common Area of Wheaton North High School in honor of Staff Sgt. Miller; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we strongly urge the Board of Trustees of the College of DuPage to reconsider the agreement reached with Dr. Robert Breuder; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the Board of Trustees of the College of Dupage to rename the College of DuPage Homeland Security Education Center in honor of Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller as a tribute to the service and sacrifice Staff Sgt. Miller rendered to the DuPage County community and to the United States of America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Board of Trustees of the College of DuPage, the President of the College of DuPage, and to the family of Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

Offered by Representative Brauer:

WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to individuals who gave their lives in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Illinois State Trooper Bernard Delano "Bernie" Skeeters's last watch occurred on May 20, 1982 when his patrol car was struck from behind by a tractor trailer on Interstate 55 near Williamsville; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Skeeters was working a safety detail patrolling on southbound Interstate 55 behind a paint truck when a semi-trailer slammed into his squad car from behind forcing his car into the paint truck in front of him; the 3-vehicle accident instantly killed Trooper Skeeters; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Skeeters became an Illinois State Troper on March 9, 1970 and served for 12 years; he was assigned to District 9 in Springfield; he was the youngest of 15 children to Joseph Edward and Grace Rosalie (nee Whitcomb) Skeeters; he was survived by his wife, Marie, and their 3 sons, Tom, Ron, and the late Andy; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Stuttle Road overpass over Interstate 55 in Williamsville as the "Trooper Bernard D. Skeeters Memorial Overpass"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the name "Trooper Bernard D. Skeeters Memorial Overpass"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Trooper Skeeters and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Offered by Representative Mayfield:

WHEREAS, Many schools in the State of Illinois are facing critical funding shortages, which has negatively impacted their ability to provide quality education to their students; and

WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly believe that all educational institutions throughout the State should be funded as equally as possible in order to provide every student with the best education possible; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the School Poverty Task Force to study sources of funding for poverty-stricken schools throughout the State of Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study possible solutions and new methods for State funding, including General State Aid and poverty grant funding, in order to give advice on how school funding can be more equally distributed to schools in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education shall provide administrative support to the Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) one member appointed by the Illinois State Board of Education;

(5) one member appointed by the Illinois Department of Human Services;

(6) one member with expertise in poverty, appointed by a non-profit group involved in poverty-stricken schools in the State; and

(7) one member to serve as a representative of teacher unions in the State, appointed by election from all major teacher unions in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet initially at the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, submit a report to the General Assembly no later than October 31, 2016, and, upon submission, be dissolved; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

Offered by Representative Costello:

WHEREAS, Long before Lewis and Clark, our region was home to the ancient societies of Mississippian Culture and the beginnings of urbanism in the eastern woodlands; it was from these societies that today's great Indian Nations sprang, with cultural connections from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and along the mighty Mississippi; the beginnings of this urban civilization was spread over 6 counties of eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois; and

WHEREAS, At the sea of verdure, the fertile American Bottom stretches bluff to bluff at the confluence of America's greatest rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, cradling the birth of millennia of agriculture and the rise of the Mississippian Culture; Cahokia Mounds and its mound complexes thrived on the cultivation and trading of corn, with their surplus allowing them to rise and become the "Center of the Universe" of the Mississippian Culture, trading to the north, south, east, and west; and

WHEREAS, Dating from the Mississippian period (800-1350 AD), Cahokia Mounds, covering 3,950 acres, is the earliest and largest pre-Columbian archaeological site north of Mexico and the pre-eminent example of a cultural, religious, and economic center of the pre-historic Mississippian cultural tradition, which extended throughout the Mississippi Valley and the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, With a population of 10,000-30,000 at its peak between 1050 and 1150AD, Cahokia Mounds is an early and exceptional example of pre-urban/urban structuring, graphically demonstrating the existence of a society in which a powerful political and economic hierarchy was responsible for the organization of labor, agriculture, and trade; this is reflected in the size and layout of the settlement and the nature and structure of the public and private buildings; and

WHEREAS, Cahokia Mounds' unique role in the nation's history was recognized by the National Park Service through its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Cahokia Mounds' global significance was recognized by the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization through its designation as a World Heritage Site in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Since 1925, State, local, and private funds have been invested in the Cahokia Mounds Historic Site for acquisition and protection; a formal national park service designation would capitalize on this investment; and

WHEREAS, Cahokia Mounds and its ancient non-contiguous satellite settlements are today in need of additional protection to secure the most significant remnants of the largest Native American civilization on the North American continent north of Mexico from active and passive threats; and

WHEREAS, With guidance from the Indian Nations, federal agencies, Illinois and Missouri state agencies, and local units of government, HeartLands Conservancy developed a thorough, compelling, and rigorous study that met National Park Service standards and criteria demonstrating the feasibility of elevating the status and national designation of Cahokia Mounds; the surrounding mound complexes in the region and their significance, suitability, and feasibility as a potential formal unit of the National Park Service would ensure that these precious ancient archaeological resources are protected and accessible for all people to experience; and

WHEREAS, Conducting 13 public meetings, media interviews, stakeholder meetings, outreach to 13 tribes/nations, and over 890 surveys, HeartLands Conservancy received support for the study's recommendations and showed that local communities would benefit from revitalized and protected sites with enhanced interpretive and educational programs to teach about the Mississippian Culture, its ancestral significance, and the numerous associated historic traces and cultural themes; and

WHEREAS, The study captured the significance of the region and its ancient history by demonstrating that, through cooperative protection and partnerships, it can remain connected and intact in order to properly interpret remaining sites as well as offering opportunities to protect, enhance, and interpret the natural environment along the Mounds Heritage Trail corridor; and

WHEREAS, National parks generate $31 billion for local economies each year and are shown to invigorate neighborhood historic renovation and spur business growth; they also provide opportunities for tourism and economic development, natural resource conservation, and improvements of the quality of life for residents of nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, There are no other mounds within the National Park Service that represent the Mississippian Culture as holistically and uniquely as the Cahokia Mounds; combined with the surrounding satellite mound centers, Cahokia emerges as the most significant and unsurpassed example of its time period; and

WHEREAS, The great region of southwestern Illinois and eastern Missouri will, with the assistance of the Indian Nations, become a center of cultural outreach and enrichment by embracing our nation's earliest heritage and re-engaging our ancient past as a foundation for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Legislation will be introduced in Congress to create the Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in Southwestern Illinois, which, with thematically-connected non-contiguous mound complexes in the St. Louis Metropolitan Region, will recognize the significance of the Mississippian Culture and its unique national significance in agriculture, ancestral ties, and its status as one of America's first cities; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong consensus that now is the time for immediate action to further develop the Cahokia Mounds and thematically-connected mound complexes to realize their full potential; with new transportation access across the Mississippi River completed and the rebound of the economy, there is even greater pressure to develop this; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we show our support for the recommendations in "The Mounds - America's First Cities - A Feasibility Study" by HeartLands Conservancy and iterate that not only should the State of Illinois continue to own and operate the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and have a collaborative partnership with the National Park Service, but other communities, agencies, and entities should play a role in redeveloping and re-energizing these sites and establish strong and lasting partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the citizens of this State to actively join HeartLands Conservancy, the Governor of Illinois, and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in the Mississippian Culture Initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to elevate the national status of the Cahokia Mounds and thematically-connected Mound Complexes that are deemed suitable and nationally-significant as a non-contiguous National Historical Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we alternatively call upon the President to exercise his authority by Executive Order to designate the Cahokia Mounds as a National Monument; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, and President Barack Obama.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has an interest in encouraging and promoting the development of agriculture, commerce, and industry, for the benefit of all Illinois residents; and

WHEREAS, Access to credit, guided by sound lending policies tailored to Illinois' unique natural resources and infrastructure, and its position within the national and world economies, is essential to the growth of all sectors of the Illinois economy; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the role of private lenders in restoring prosperity to Illinois, there is also a role for government to play in the revitalization of all sectors of the Illinois economy; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Return Illinois To Prosperity Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Return Illinois To Prosperity Commission (Commission) shall be composed of the following voting members:

Two members of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall serve as co-chair of the Commission, and 2 members of the public knowledgeable about the State's banking sector and economy, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

Two members of the House of Representatives and 2 members of the public knowledgeable about the State's banking sector and economy, appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

Two members of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as co-chair of the Commission, and 2 members of the public knowledgeable about the State's banking sector and economy, appointed by the President of the Senate;

Two members of the Senate and 2 members of the public knowledgeable about the State's banking sector and economy, appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

The Governor, or his or her designee; the State Treasurer, or his or her designee; the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation, or his or her designee; and the Director of Revenue, or his or her designee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the co-chairs of the Commission, in their discretion, may appoint, as additional non-voting members of the Commission, representatives of units of local government, experts in public finance or the Illinois economy, and other interested parties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission shall review and evaluate the creation of an Illinois State Bank that would:

(1) purchase, guarantee, or hold loans made by community banks, credit unions, or other financial institutions doing business in Illinois;

(2) provide a secondary market for residential loans and mortgages, and other loans, made by financial institutions doing business in Illinois;

(3) make loans in the form of participation loans with Illinois community banks to qualified individuals and businesses residing in or doing business in Illinois when the originator of the loan is a community bank, credit union, or other financial institution;

(4) serve as a banker's bank for Illinois chartered banks by providing correspondent banking services and other related services in keeping with its mission;

(5) accept deposits related to such transactions from banks and other financial institutions; and

(6) be authorized to issue bank stock loans to Illinois chartered banks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in making its review and evaluation, the Commission shall consider that the mission of an Illinois State Bank would include:

(1) supporting the economic development of the State by increasing access to capital for agriculture, businesses, and industry within the State in partnership with local financial institutions;

(2) providing stability to the local financial sector without entering into competition

with community banks, credit unions, or other financial institutions;

(3) reducing the costs paid by the State for basic banking services; and

(4) returning profits, beyond those necessary to accomplish the mission and sound operations of the Bank, to the General Revenue Fund of the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in making its review and evaluation, the Commission shall consider relevant factors to its mission, including, but not limited to:

(1) the operation and impact of the Bank of North Dakota;

(2) whether other states have state banks or are currently considering the creation of a state bank;

(3) the effectiveness and usefulness of existing state banks, with specific attention to the economic impact of having a state bank;

(4) the costs and revenues associated with the Bank of North Dakota and any other existing state banks;

(5) the short-term operating costs and projected revenues of an Illinois State Bank; and

(6) the long-term impact on the economy, job creation, and State revenue of having a State bank; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation shall provide administrative support and assistance to the Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission shall make its report to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 31, 2015; the report of the Commission shall detail those findings and recommendations supported by a majority of the voting members.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 25

Offered by Representative Costello:

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Michael A. Holub on the occasion of his retirement as the Chief of Police of the Village of La Grange in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holub began his 40-year career in law enforcement in 1974, when he joined the Stickney Police Department; he was promoted to Sergeant in 1981, to Patrol Shift Commander in 1987, and to Deputy Chief of Police in 1988; later in 1988, he became Chief of Police of the Stickney Police Department; he became Chief of Police of the Palos Park Police Department in 1995 and of the River Forest Police Department in 1998; in 2003, he became Chief of Police of the La Grange Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Chief Holub has received numerous awards and has been involved with numerous organizations; he received the Excellence in Law Enforcement Award in 2013 from the Special Agents Association and the Law Enforcement Award from the Illinois State Bar Association in 2012; in 2010, the American Legion Department of Illinois named him its Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and he was a member of its Disaster Relief Committee; he received the La Grange Area NAACP's Award of Appreciation in 2006 and the La Grange Business Association's Public Servant Award in 2003; he was a past member of Triton College's Criminal Justice Department's Adjunct Faculty, where he was named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member in 2002; he is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, where he was named the Northern Illinois Division Member of the Year in 2002 and served as President of the Illinois Chapter in 2007; he served as the Public Affairs Director and Military Liaison for the United States Department of Defense's Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for Illinois, for which he was selected as National ESGR Public Affairs Volunteer of the Year in 2012 and received the Illinois ESGR Seven Seals Award twice, the President's Volunteer Service Award 8 times, the Department of Defense Patriot Award 3 times, and the Department of Defense Above and Beyond Award in January of 2010; he served as a Personnel Committee member for the Northeast Multi-Regional Police Training Board and as Parliamentarian for the West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association, where he was also a past President and life member; he served as past Chairman of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police's Police Chiefs Certification Committee and as past Chair of its Executive Search Committee; he was past President of the 5th District Police Chiefs Association; he served in the United States Army's Old Guard, where was presented with the Meritorious Unit Citation; he was a life member and a member of the board of directors of The Old Guard Association; he received the United States Army's National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holub has authored articles in the FBI's National Academy Associate magazine and in Command Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holub received his Associate of Arts from Morton College in 1979; he attended the FBI Executive Development Course for Police Chiefs in 1988 and the FBI National Academy in 1993; he received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal and Social Justice from Lewis University in 1995; he attended the FBI Midwest Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in 1997; he received his Master of Arts in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University in 1997; he became a certified police chief in 2001 (recertified in 2006 and 2011) and attended the Western Illinois University Fire Protection Services Program from 2002 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holub will be honored at a retirement dinner on January 24, 2015 at Crystal Sky Banquets in McCook; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Michael A. Holub on his retirement as the Chief of Police of the Village of La Grange, and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Chief Holub as an expression of our esteem and respect.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Offered by Representative Zalewski:

WHEREAS, Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads easily through the air or on infected surfaces; it causes rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes; people who are infected with measles can spread the virus for up to 4 days before developing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Measles affect all organs of the body, and can cause serious and, in some cases, fatal complications in children, including pneumonia and encephalitis; and

WHEREAS, A non-immunized person or child has a 90% chance of getting the measles if they come in contact with an infected person; and

WHEREAS, The measles vaccine has been shown in numerous studies to be one of the most safe and effective vaccines available; and

WHEREAS, High immunization rates in a community will protect those who cannot be vaccinated, including children undergoing cancer treatment and infants under 12 months of age, who are at the highest risk of serious illness, hospitalization, or death due to measles; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians all recommend that children receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine at the age of 12-15 months, and again at 4-6 years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage the Illinois Department of Public Health to promulgate administrative rules pursuant to the requirement for health examinations and immunizations within the School Code and to encourage higher rates of vaccinations and to expedite this process in order to have such rules in place for the 2015-16 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, From 1961 to 1972, the United States military conducted a large-scale defoliation program aimed at destroying the forest and jungle cover used by enemy North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops fighting against U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The most commonly used, and most effective, mixture of herbicides was Agent Orange, named for the orange stripe painted on the 55-gallon drums in which the mixture was stored; and

WHEREAS, Questions regarding Agent Orange arose in the United States after an increasing number of returning Vietnam veterans and their families began to report a range of afflictions, including rashes and other skin irritations, miscarriages, psychological symptoms, Type-2 diabetes, birth defects in children, and cancers such as Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, and leukemia; and

WHEREAS, Some 400,000 people were killed or maimed as a result of exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Agent Orange Act, which mandated that some diseases associated with defoliants (including non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, soft tissue sarcomas, and chloracne) be treated as the result of wartime service and helped codify the Veterans Administration's response to veterans with conditions related to their exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The federal VA's Agent Orange Registry Health Exam alerts veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service, and the registry data helps the VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively; and

WHEREAS, This free comprehensive health exam includes an exposure history, medical history, physical exam, and any tests if needed while requiring no copayment; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Illinois Task Force on Agent Orange to investigate and form recommendations on how best to communicate with veterans affected by Agent Orange concerning the treatment options available to them; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Task Force shall consist of 9 members as follows: (1) one member appointed by The Speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; (3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate; (4) one member appointed by the Senate Minority leader; (5) the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, who shall act as the Chair; (6) one Veterans' Service Officer from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs; (7) one representative from the Department of Public Health, appointed by the Director of Public Health; (8) one representative from the Secretary of State's Office, appointed by the Secretary of State; and (9) one representative of local county health departments in Illinois appointed by the Director of Public Health; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Task Force shall meet periodically at the discretion of the Chair; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present a report of its findings, which shall include its recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Illinois House of Representatives and the Senate on or before January 1, 2016.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

Offered by Representative Sims:

WHEREAS, Guaranteeing equal employment opportunity in federal jobs has traditionally been at the forefront of the government's efforts to curtail nationwide racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, a series of executive orders have been propagated to promote these policies of ending racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, On September 24, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Executive Order 11246, which prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors and federally-assisted contractors and subcontractors that generally have contracts exceeding $10,000 from discriminating in employment decisions based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 11246 requires covered contractors to "take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin"; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs enforces Executive Order 11246 and other regulations banning discrimination; and

WHEREAS, A covered contractor in violation of Executive Order 11246 or associated regulations may have its contracts canceled, terminated, or suspended; the contractor may also be declared ineligible for future government contracts; and

WHEREAS, Section 201 of Executive Order 11246 requires that the Secretary of the Department of Labor shall adopt rules, regulations, and orders as he or she deems necessary to achieve the purposes of the Order; and

WHEREAS, Since October of 1980, the Code of Federal Regulations requires the Director of the United States Department of Labor to issue goals and timetables for minority and female utilization in the contracts covered under Executive Order 11246; and

WHEREAS, The Code of Federal Regulations requires these minority and female utilization goals to be published in the Federal Register; and

WHEREAS, On October 3, 1980, the Minority Participation Goals were published in the Federal Register, declaring that until further notice, the goals for minority utilization shall be included in all federal or federally-assisted construction contracts and subcontracts in excess of $10,000 to be performed in the respective geographical area; and

WHEREAS, The Minority Participation Goals published in 1980 were calculated using data from the 1970 United States Census and are set at the 1970 levels of minority representation in the experienced civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, The United States workforce has seen a substantial increase in representation by women and minorities; however, the minority participation goals and timetables have not been updated since they were issued in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Since 2010, the United States Department of Labor has included Executive Order 11246 on its Annual Regulatory Agenda for retrospective analysis of the existing related rules; and

WHEREAS, The Regulatory Agenda declares that the guidance issued to Executive Order 11246 "is more than 30 years old and warrants a lookback"; and

WHEREAS, The Regulatory Agenda declares that the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs "will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to create sex discrimination regulations that reflect the current state of the law in this area"; and

WHEREAS, Neither has a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking been filed, nor any other action been taken to update the regulations implementing Executive Order 11246, including the minority utilization goals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we, as elected representatives of the people, respectfully but emphatically urge the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and the members of Congress to update the regulations implementing Executive Order 11246, including the minority utilization goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we respectfully but emphatically urge the United States Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking providing guidance and regulations for implementation of Executive Order 11246, which accurately reflect the current state of the United States workforce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

Offered by Representative Moffitt:

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle for Illinois citizens; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is cognizant of the busy lives Illinoisans live and the challenges of eating healthy while traveling; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation maintains a system of 30 rest areas and 11 welcome centers on highways throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, These facilities serve more than 36 million visitors annually and are meant to enhance traveler safety and comfort; and

WHEREAS, Illinois citizens and travelers utilizing Illinois rest areas and welcome centers would be better served by having healthy snack options in vending machines; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Illinois Department of Transportation to offer at least 3 healthy snacks containing less than 220 calories for every 10 snacks in vending machines in State rest stops and welcome centers, of which a minimum of 2 should be made in Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced, read by title a first time, ordered reproduced and placed in the Committee on Rules:

HOUSE BILL 2469. Introduced by Representative Brown, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2470. Introduced by Representatives Currie - Drury, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2471. Introduced by Representatives Currie - Drury, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2472. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2473. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2474. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning local government.

HOUSE BILL 2475. Introduced by Representative Burke, Kelly, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 2476. Introduced by Representative Hoffman, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2477. Introduced by Representative Lang, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2478. Introduced by Representative Lang, AN ACT concerning insurance.

HOUSE BILL 2479. Introduced by Representative Soto, AN ACT concerning employment.

HOUSE BILL 2480. Introduced by Representative Soto, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2481. Introduced by Representative Soto, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2482. Introduced by Representative Soto, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2483. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2484. Introduced by Representative Reaves-Harris, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2485. Introduced by Representative Feigenholtz, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2486. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning health.

HOUSE BILL 2487. Introduced by Representative Pritchard, AN ACT concerning agriculture.

HOUSE BILL 2488. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning safety.

HOUSE BILL 2489. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning local government.

HOUSE BILL 2490. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2491. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2492. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2493. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2494. Introduced by Representative Walsh, AN ACT concerning local government.

HOUSE BILL 2495. Introduced by Representative Yingling, AN ACT concerning safety.

HOUSE BILL 2496. Introduced by Representative Guzzardi, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2497. Introduced by Representative Ford, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2498. Introduced by Representative Burke, Kelly, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2499. Introduced by Representative Burke, Daniel, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2500. Introduced by Representative Burke, Daniel, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2501. Introduced by Representative Burke, Daniel, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2502. Introduced by Representative Burke, Daniel, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2503. Introduced by Representative Mayfield, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2504. Introduced by Representative Harris, David, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 2505. Introduced by Representative Harris, David, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 2506. Introduced by Representative Harris, David, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 2507. Introduced by Representative Martwick, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2508. Introduced by Representative Harris, David, AN ACT concerning health.

HOUSE BILL 2509. Introduced by Representative Cassidy, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2510. Introduced by Representative Cassidy, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2511. Introduced by Representative Cassidy, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 2512. Introduced by Representative Zalewski, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2513. Introduced by Representative Evans, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2514. Introduced by Representative Martwick, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 2515. Introduced by Representative Cloonen, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2516. Introduced by Representative Hoffman, AN ACT concerning employment.

HOUSE BILL 2517. Introduced by Representative Hoffman, AN ACT concerning employment.

HOUSE BILL 2518. Introduced by Representative Hoffman, AN ACT concerning employment.

HOUSE BILL 2519. Introduced by Representative Turner, AN ACT concerning employment.

HOUSE BILL 2520. Introduced by Representative Harris, Greg, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 2521. Introduced by Representative Hernandez, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2522. Introduced by Representative Hernandez, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 2523. Introduced by Representative Hernandez, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2524. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2525. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2526. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2527. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2528. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning higher education.

HOUSE BILL 2529. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2530. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2531. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning jobs creation.

HOUSE BILL 2532. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 2533. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning finance.

HOUSE BILL 2534. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 2535. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2536. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2537. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning public aid.

HOUSE BILL 2538. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 2539. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning government.

HOUSE BILL 2540. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 2541. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning business.

HOUSE BILL 2542. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 2543. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 2544. Introduced by Representative Acevedo, AN ACT concerning safety.

HOUSE BILL 2545. Introduced by Representative Moylan, AN ACT concerning gaming.

HOUSE BILL 2546. Introduced by Representative Demmer, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2547. Introduced by Representative Demmer, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 2548. Introduced by Representative Batinick, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 2549. Introduced by Representative Golar, AN ACT concerning employment.

At the hour of 3:35 o'clock p.m., the House Perfunctory Session adjourned.