



HR0986

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The mission of the Illinois Department of Child
3 and Family Services (DCFS) is to promote prevention, child
4 safety, permanency, and well-being by bringing the voices of
5 Illinois children and families to the forefront and building
6 trusting relationships; and

7 WHEREAS, Every child and family in Illinois deserves to
8 live safe, happy, and healthy lives in their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, For 35 years, DCFS released monthly data reports
10 of incidents of child abuse, including the number of repeat
11 calls to the agency for children who have already been found to
12 be abused, and data to indicate the number of those reports
13 that were "priority one" cases where children are in immediate
14 physical danger; and

15 WHEREAS, That data has been necessary for the general
16 public to understand child abuse trends; and

17 WHEREAS, DCFS ended its 35-year practice of voluntarily
18 reporting data about child abuse to the public in July of 2017,
19 and subsequently refused to comply with requests from advocates
20 to release the data; and

1 WHEREAS, DCFS failed to respond to requests for the data
2 from former wards of the State (now called Youth in Care) for
3 eight months, withholding that information until an official
4 FOIA request was made; and

5 WHEREAS, The data released from the FOIA request, though
6 incomplete, is alarming and shows that the number of children
7 re-abused after DCFS involvement has skyrocketed 50% since
8 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, DCFS has publicly questioned its legal obligation
10 to release the data; and

11 WHEREAS, DCFS has publicly questioned whether they are
12 capable of creating the data reports despite having the same
13 computer systems in place as when monthly reporting was
14 occurring; and

15 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to have updated
16 monthly access to the data currently being withheld by DCFS;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the
20 Illinois Department of Child and Family Services is urged to
21 immediately return to its 35-year precedent by resuming monthly

1 child abuse reports and executive statistical summary reports;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to each member of the Illinois General Assembly, the
5 Director of the Department of Child and Family Services, and
6 the Office of the Governor as a testament to our unwavering
7 commitment to improving the day-to-day lives of children and
8 families across Illinois.