



HR0527

LRB099 12576 GRL 36115 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Nearly one million students taking credit,
3 non-credit, and community education courses walk through the
4 doors of an Illinois community college each year; and

5 WHEREAS, Community colleges are the primary provider of
6 higher education in Illinois; 65% of all students who are
7 enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the
8 State attend a community college; and

9 WHEREAS, More than two-thirds of all minorities in Illinois
10 public higher education attend community colleges; nearly
11 15,000 students with disabilities and 62,000 students with
12 limited English proficiency are served each year; and

13 WHEREAS, College costs are reduced when students are able
14 to gain access to college-level coursework during their junior
15 and senior years of high school through dual credit; and

16 WHEREAS, Community colleges offered 8,780 dual credit
17 courses to 82,895 high school students last year; and

18 WHEREAS, The average tuition rate per credit hour is nearly
19 \$119.00 per credit hour; and

1 WHEREAS, Of the nearly 165,000 qualified MAP students who
2 were turned away due to lack of funds in Fiscal Year 2014,
3 almost 75% of them were community college students; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois Community College System Economic
5 Impact Study finds that, on average, all students who completed
6 their community college education in Fiscal Year 2011 saw a
7 gain of almost \$3,600, a 30% increase in earnings over their
8 pre-enrollment wages; and

9 WHEREAS, In his first State of the State Address, Governor
10 Bruce Rauner called for an end to "the era of cutting funding
11 for technical training and community colleges"; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Rauner's Fiscal Year 2016 budget
13 provides for an investment in our future workforce through K-12
14 education and community colleges; and

15 WHEREAS, In January of 2015, President Barack Obama
16 announced the America's College Promise initiative to provide a
17 community college education tuition free to qualified
18 students; and

19 WHEREAS, The America's College Promise of free community
20 college tuition, partnered with proven strategies to support
21 student achievement and increase degree completion, would

1 provide the critical support structures needed to ensure that
2 our State and our nation would have an educated workforce
3 prepared for the jobs of the future; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 urge President Barack Obama and Congress to make federal funds
7 available to the Illinois Community College System; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of
11 the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader
12 of the United States Senate, and the members of the Illinois
13 congressional delegation.