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LRB100 21112 MST 37000 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 2014, the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice issued guidance through the Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline on January 8, 2014, to assist public schools with administering student discipline without discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin; and

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WHEREAS, Every student is entitled to equal education opportunities regardless of race, color, or national origin; and

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WHEREAS, This guidance addresses the school-to-prison pipeline, a problematic trend in which students of color are disproportionately suspended, expelled, arrested, and exposed to law enforcement; and

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WHEREAS, Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, states, school districts, and schools must not intentionally treat students differently nor implement policies or practices in providing educational resources that disproportionately affect students based on race, color, or national origin, as this discrimination is prohibited; and

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1 WHEREAS, According to U.S. Education Department data,
2 research shows that racial disparities in school discipline
3 contribute to adverse impacts on the student achievement gap,
4 including lower grades, higher dropout rates, higher
5 incarceration rates, and reduction of important instructional
6 time due to exclusionary discipline; and

7 WHEREAS, Black female students in Illinois are more than
8 7.5 times more likely to have multiple out-of-school
9 suspensions than white female students; and

10 WHEREAS, Latino students in Illinois are nearly 1.5 times
11 more likely to have multiple out-of-school suspensions than
12 white students; and

13 WHEREAS, Black students in Illinois are two times more
14 likely to be referred to law enforcement by their schools than
15 white students; and

16 WHEREAS, Higher rates of suspension are related to higher
17 rates of future antisocial behaviors and involvement in the
18 juvenile justice system; and

19 WHEREAS, Data from Chicago educators suggests only 20% of
20 educators feel they have received "at least effective" training
21 on restorative justice; and

1 WHEREAS, In acknowledgement of said disparities, Illinois
2 passed Senate Bill 100 in 2015 in recognition of the growing
3 national and local movements focused on breaking down the
4 school-to-prison pipeline and reducing exclusionary discipline
5 practices; and

6 WHEREAS, Those schools and districts that have prioritized
7 implementation of restorative practices as a result of Senate
8 Bill 100 of the 99th General Assembly have seen significant
9 reductions in suspensions, expulsions, and notifications; and

10 WHEREAS, In accordance with Title VI, data suggest via the
11 U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice
12 that this current guidance on how to identify, avoid, and
13 remedy discriminatory discipline will assist schools in
14 providing all students with equal educational opportunities;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Equitable discipline policies are crucial to
17 creating safe and welcoming school environments, improving a
18 school's climate and culture, and ultimately increasing
19 overall student engagement and achievement; and

20 WHEREAS, Given the aforementioned data and concerns,
21 Illinois must reaffirm its commitment to dismantling the

1 school-to-prison pipeline and ensuring that we are educating
2 and preparing all our young people to build a brighter future
3 for themselves and our State; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
6 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the U.S. Department of
7 Education to actively sustain the school discipline guidance
8 released by the Departments of Education and Justice in 2014,
9 and the State of Illinois and Illinois State Board of Education
10 to uphold the original school discipline guidance released by
11 the Department of Education and Justice in 2014, regardless of
12 the decision made by the U.S. Department of Education; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos,
16 Illinois State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith, and
17 Illinois State Board of Education Chairman James T. Meeks.