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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois ABLE program is a transformative tool
3 for Illinoisians with disabilities and their families who want
4 to save for additional expenses that come with living with a
5 disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Before ABLE, people with disabilities lived with
7 chronic financial insecurity, and only those with means had a
8 real pathway to financial independence and to achieve the
9 promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act to assure
10 equality of opportunity, full participation, independent
11 living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2014, a great bi-partisan victory was achieved
13 when members of Congress joined together to pass the Stephen
14 Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, making
15 it possible for people with disabilities to save for disability
16 expenses without losing federal means-tested benefits, and
17 more than 42 states plus the District of Columbia have launched
18 ABLE programs since then; and

19 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly passed ABLE
20 legislation in 2015, and Illinois now leads a 17-state National
21 ABLE Alliance, representing approximately one-quarter of the
22 ABLE eligible population nationwide; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois ABLE was launched by the State
2 Treasurer's Office in January 2017, and three years later, as
3 of January 1, 2020, more than 1,200 Illinois ABLE accounts have
4 been opened; approximately \$10 million has been contributed to
5 save for a wide range of qualified disability expenses, such as
6 therapy, adaptive equipment, training, transportation, job
7 coaching, housing, and more; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois ABLE has created a pathway to greater
9 financial independence for Illinoisians with disabilities and
10 their families, incentivizes employment of people with
11 disabilities, and increases economic self-reliance and
12 person-centered independence for many individuals with
13 disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The State Treasurer offers his thanks and
15 heartfelt appreciation for the path that Illinois lawmakers
16 blazed four years ago and acknowledges that we must build upon
17 our progress to keep Illinois ABLE on the path to advancement
18 through cooperation and collaboration with Illinois human
19 services agencies and departments to accomplish the long term
20 goals of the ABLE ACT; and

21 WHEREAS, Illinois human services agencies and departments,
22 including the Illinois Department of Human Services, the

1 Division of Family and Community Services, the Division of
2 Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Mental Health, the
3 Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of
4 Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, the Department of
5 Children and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and
6 Family Services, the Department on Aging, and the Illinois
7 State Board of Education can aid in the identification of
8 ABLE-eligible persons and direct the dissemination of
9 information about ABLE through a direct connection to
10 approximately 300,000 people in the State of Illinois who are
11 ABLE-eligible; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Treasurer recognizes these state
13 agencies and departments for their excellent service to people
14 with disabilities across the state and looks to achieve support
15 from these agencies and departments in helping Illinoisians
16 with disabilities achieve a better life experience through ABLE
17 savings plans as they are essential to the continued success of
18 Illinois ABLE; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage these state
22 agencies and departments to continue their efforts to train
23 staff and share information about Illinois ABLE to the
24 beneficiaries they serve; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Illinois Department of Human Services, the
3 Division of Family and Community Services, the Division of
4 Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Mental Health, the
5 Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of
6 Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, the Department of
7 Children and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and
8 Family Services, the Department on Aging, the Illinois State
9 Board of Education, and the Treasurer's Office.