



HR0088

LRB101 08873 ALS 53963 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a significant population  
3 for whom English is their second language; and

4 WHEREAS, A proportion of their children have been or will  
5 be identified as eligible for special education services; and

6 WHEREAS, Parents of children with disabilities have a right  
7 and an obligation to actively participate in Individualized  
8 Education Program (IEP) meetings; and

9 WHEREAS, Parents who are not proficient in English are  
10 effectively foreclosed from meaningful participation at IEP  
11 meetings due to their inability to fully comprehend vital  
12 information provided to them only in English; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has established  
14 qualifications and standards of competency for interpreters  
15 for the deaf and hard of hearing; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has not established  
17 comparable qualifications and standards of competency for  
18 language interpreters for, in this instance, parents with  
19 limited English proficiency; and

1           WHEREAS, Language interpretation services for parents of  
2 limited English proficiency at IEP meetings vary widely  
3 throughout the State; when services are provided by individuals  
4 with unknown levels of proficiency in two languages, without  
5 interpreter training, without knowledge of special education  
6 terminology, or without an understanding of ethical and  
7 cultural considerations, the opportunity to arrange the best  
8 possible support for a child with special needs will be  
9 limited; and

10           WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the State of Illinois that  
11 all parents, including parents of children with disabilities,  
12 and, in this instance, parents of limited English proficiency  
13 with children receiving special education services, be  
14 afforded the same opportunities to comprehend and effectively  
15 participate in IEP meetings on the same footing as similar  
16 parents who are English speaking and parents who are deaf or  
17 hard of hearing who are provided required, competent  
18 interpretation services for the deaf and hard of hearing;  
19 therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we urge the General Assembly to enact legislation to amend The  
23 School Code of Illinois, requiring the Illinois State Board of  
24 Education to establish criteria, standards, and competencies

1 required of bilingual language interpreters for parents of  
2 limited English proficiency who are participating in IEP  
3 meetings.