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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives call upon the public universities in Illinois to study the usefulness and fairness of standardized tests in their admission processes; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of analyzing the use of standardized testing in higher education is to move to a test-optional admittance process; and

WHEREAS, There are clear benefits to standardized testing merely being an optional step in the admission process, one of which is increased diversity; low income students typically score lower than their more affluent peers, putting them at a disadvantage in the admissions process; in 2016, the average ACT composite score for a high-income student was 23.6, while the average composite score for low income students was 19.5; and

WHEREAS, After the University of Chicago made the decision to go test-optional, the university reported record enrollments of first-generation, low-income, and rural students; and

WHEREAS, Public universities in Illinois making the choice

1 to go test-optional would not be unique; currently, one in four  
2 institutions of higher education no longer require a  
3 standardized test score for admittance, and, in the last year  
4 alone, 41 schools have eliminated their standardized testing  
5 requirement; and

6 WHEREAS, A university moving to a test-optional admittance  
7 process is not at all synonymous with a university abandoning  
8 its prestige, as the standards for admittance would simply be  
9 shifted to the students' GPA, extracurricular activities, and  
10 references; a standardized test is not the only way to measure  
11 a student's potential; the choice to eliminate mandatory  
12 standardized testing from admittance processes can lead to a  
13 larger applicant pool for universities, thus creating a  
14 stronger student body; and

15 WHEREAS, The test-optional switch will be extremely  
16 beneficial to the low-income students of Illinois who have  
17 hopes of attending one of the State's exceptional public  
18 universities; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we urge the public universities in Illinois to examine the use  
22 of standardized testing in their admissions processes; and be  
23 it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 delivered to all the public universities in Illinois.