



HR0219

LRB102 17819 ECR 24187 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an
3 economic crisis that has affected working Americans and has
4 had a disproportionate effect on women, especially women of
5 color; and

6 WHEREAS, Women have suffered the full force of this crisis
7 because of inadequate childcare, instability in hard-hit
8 industries, and insufficient health and safety resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The unpaid domestic work and the essential care
10 work performed by women sustains societies and has immense
11 economic value, yet recovery policies do not adequately
12 support women; and

13 WHEREAS, Women comprise a majority of workers in
14 industries impacted by COVID-19, including the hospitality,
15 entertainment, healthcare, and restaurant industries; women
16 comprise the majority of midwives, cleaners, launderers,
17 nurses, and other community health workers; and

18 WHEREAS, Over 50 percent of all essential workers are
19 women, including 78 percent of social workers and 77 percent
20 of healthcare workers; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that women are at the forefront
2 of exposure, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not
3 designed to fit them; surveys have found that less than 30
4 percent of PPE fits women correctly; and

5 WHEREAS, When schools are closed to reduce virus
6 transmission, many women are forced to choose between
7 childcare and staying in the workforce; many women have left
8 their jobs or shifted to part-time work to accommodate for
9 school and daycare closings; and

10 WHEREAS, Women make up the majority of single-parent
11 households and perform 76 percent of unpaid care work; and

12 WHEREAS, 1 in 4 women who lost their jobs during the
13 COVID-19 pandemic have reported that they lost their jobs due
14 to a lack of childcare; and

15 WHEREAS, Women have been disproportionately affected by
16 unemployment, with women suffering 60 percent of
17 pandemic-related job losses; the unemployment rate for women
18 reached a staggering 16 percent with most of the women
19 affected being Black, Latinx, and disabled women; and

20 WHEREAS, Forcing women, who already have less savings than
21 men, to drop out of the labor force to perform care work

1 reduces their life-time income by 65 percent, which in turn
2 exacerbates gaps in life-time income; and

3 WHEREAS, COVID-19-related restrictions also came at the
4 expense of women's health and safety as women's shelters close
5 and resources are reallocated to pandemic response; and

6 WHEREAS, Economic stress and social stress, coupled with
7 restricted movement and social isolation, have led to an
8 exponential increase in gender-based violence; without the
9 economic and social resources that shelters and crisis centers
10 provide, women are unable to escape abusive partners and face
11 a greater threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking; and

12 WHEREAS, Pandemic-related restrictions have made it harder
13 for women to seek health services as health clinics close and
14 postpone or restrict non-emergency medical care for pandemic
15 response; and

16 WHEREAS, The diversion of healthcare resources for the
17 pandemic has exacerbated maternal mortality and morbidity; and

18 WHEREAS, Transgender women have faced more barriers to
19 gender-affirming medical care, and individuals with uteruses
20 face more difficulties getting gynecological care since the
21 beginning of the pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, It is essential that the General Assembly and the
2 Governor fix the unemployment system, fully fund the Child
3 Care Assistance Program, and institute policies that make it
4 easier for caregivers to participate and stay in the
5 workforce; and

6 WHEREAS, Economic and social policies cannot neglect the
7 work women perform and the issues they face; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we urge state lawmakers to enact policies, such as
11 prioritizing funding and supporting education including the
12 evidence-based funding formula passed by the General Assembly,
13 Paid Family Leave, Paid Sick Leave, and support programs
14 dedicated to providing women with accessible healthcare and
15 safety resources, including those that address the rate of
16 maternal mortality, especially for Black and Latinx women, to
17 preserve the health, safety, and well-being of women during
18 the COVID-19 Pandemic; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 presented to Governor JB Pritzker and all members of the
21 Illinois General Assembly.