



HR0033

LRB103 29564 MST 55959 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Governor JB Pritzker has reappointed Marc D.
3 Smith to the position of Director of the Illinois Department
4 of Children and Family Services (DCFS); and

5 WHEREAS, DCFS is awarded \$1.5 billion of Illinois taxpayer
6 money each year; and

7 WHEREAS, DCFS is in charge of keeping the most vulnerable
8 youths in Illinois safe and healthy; and

9 WHEREAS, DCFS released Damari Perry into the care of his
10 mother, Jannie Perry, in 2017; he was born in 2015, and she had
11 lost custody of her five other children in 2014; DCFS
12 conducted two investigations into reports of abuse and
13 neglect, including the child being forced to stand in a
14 freezing shower until he threw up and became unresponsive;
15 DCFS failed to remove Damari Perry from the care of his mother
16 before he was found dead in Gary, Indiana; Jannie Perry, her
17 son and Damari's brother, Jeremiah Perry, age 20, and a
18 juvenile sibling have been charged with Damari's death; and

19 WHEREAS, DCFS was involved with the Hill family for 19
20 years; the Hill family had 16 children, and each child was
21 investigated as being abused or neglected at least once in

1 that 19-year period; 10 of the children had been removed from
2 the home due to neglect; I'Kera Hill, age three, died of
3 malnutrition while in the care of her parents, and she was not
4 the first of her siblings to die, as her sister, reported by
5 CBS News as "child 10", died while in foster care in 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2019, there were nine child deaths with a
7 connection to DCFS within nine days; and

8 WHEREAS, Under Marc D. Smith's watch as director of DCFS,
9 at least 171 children in contact with DCFS have died in 2022,
10 according to the DCFS Inspector General; and

11 WHEREAS, DCFS only fully investigated 97 of the 171 child
12 deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, The Inspector General's report found that 36
14 children died from homicide, six from suicide, 38 from
15 accidents, 19 from unknown causes, 67 from natural causes, and
16 five for which the cause was still pending; many of the
17 children died in homes flagged as violent by DCFS, homes in
18 which the children were not supposed to be allowed to live due
19 to the threat of violence; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois had a record number of child deaths
21 under the watch of DCFS in 2022, with a 40% increase over

1 previous years; and

2 WHEREAS, Reports of child abuse and neglect to DCFS have
3 taken up to 100 days for the department to investigate; and

4 WHEREAS, DCFS Director Marc D. Smith has been found in
5 contempt of court 12 times for failing to properly place
6 children in care while serving as DCFS Director; and

7 WHEREAS, The Illinois Auditor General's Office documented
8 30 problems within DCFS, including 18 repeated problems that
9 had been noted in the past and were still not resolved; and

10 WHEREAS, There are approximately 20,000 youths in the DCFS
11 system in Illinois, but the audits found the department rarely
12 tracks where these youths are placed or whether they are
13 healthy; and

14 WHEREAS, Auditors found that 98% of the home safety
15 checklists that DCFS is required to conduct every time a child
16 returns home were not completed in 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, Director Marc D. Smith's actions as leader of
18 DCFS have directly led to more children dying from abuse and
19 neglect, as well as increased failures and problems within
20 DCFS; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge Marc D. Smith to resign as the Director of the Illinois
4 Department of Children and Family Services; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge Governor Pritzker to formally ask
6 for the resignation of Marc D. Smith from the position of
7 Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family
8 Services; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 delivered to Governor JB Pritzker and DCFS Director Marc. D.
11 Smith.