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LRB103 05834 LAW 50854 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Teachers are the single most important in-school
3 factor affecting student achievement, and having a diversity
4 of teachers significantly improves academic outcomes for both
5 students of color and white students; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has been grappling with a teacher
7 shortage for years with 2,139 vacant teaching positions in
8 Fall 2022, affecting an estimated 30,000 students; and

9 WHEREAS, Teacher vacancies are not experienced equally,
10 concentrating in classrooms that serve special education
11 students and bilingual students as well as in schools that
12 serve students who are Black, Latinx, from low-income
13 households, or from rural areas; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois' teacher workforce does not represent
15 the racial diversity of its PK-12 student population; and

16 WHEREAS, The number and percentage of enrolled teaching
17 candidates have increased in the past few years, but the
18 number of enrollees in Illinois' teacher preparation programs
19 (TPPs) is still below historic levels; and

20 WHEREAS, For many candidates of color, the cost of higher

1 education is a barrier towards completing teacher preparation
2 programs; and

3 WHEREAS, The State has an array of recruitment and
4 affordability initiatives that help address these challenges,
5 such as early pathway programs, Minority Teachers of Illinois
6 (MTI) scholarships, the Illinois Teacher Loan Repayment
7 Program, Special Education Teacher Tuition Waivers (SETTW),
8 the Monetary Award Program (MAP), and traditional and
9 alternative pathway programs, but too few high school and
10 college students or potential career changers know about the
11 benefits of teaching as a career and the availability of state
12 tuition support; and

13 WHEREAS, The increase in new licensure pathways that
14 enable candidates to become teachers has complicated an
15 already difficult to navigate teacher licensure system, making
16 it more important than ever to provide personalized, targeted
17 support for prospective teacher candidates; and

18 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has
19 recently developed and released the Illinois Educator
20 Preparation Profiles (IEPP) system that provides public
21 information on the performance of Illinois educator
22 preparation programs across the State; the IEPP could be
23 connected to a state-wide teacher recruitment system to

1 increase candidates' access to this important information; and

2 WHEREAS, Research has shown that personalized, targeted
3 support for prospective teacher candidates supports their
4 efforts to navigate the maze of information, the financial aid
5 process, and the requirements, increasing the number and
6 diversity of candidates entering the profession; and

7 WHEREAS, The creation of a statewide teacher recruitment
8 system by ISBE, with the support of the Illinois Board of
9 Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board
10 (ICCB), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC),
11 would facilitate the process of attracting, cultivating, and
12 supporting prospective future teachers to pursue teaching by
13 making resources available through a website and an associated
14 social media outreach, providing prospective teaches with such
15 aids as personalized educator preparation program application
16 checklists, scholarship and financial aid information,
17 downloadable guides on candidate eligibility and application
18 advice, detailed profiles on each Illinois educator
19 preparation program, educator licensure pathway information,
20 opportunities for personal conversations with state staff and
21 Illinois teachers to answer application process questions,
22 profiles on Illinois' public school districts, and real-time
23 job postings from Pre-K-12 public school districts across the
24 State; 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 the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to
4 support the state goal of increasing the number and diversity
5 of Illinois' educator workforce by collaborating with the
6 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois
7 Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois Student
8 Assistance Commission (ISAC) to develop and launch a
9 state-wide teacher recruitment system internally, possibly
10 with the support from an outside vendor, that will be
11 available to the public by July 1, 2024 and will support
12 interested candidates statewide to apply to, enroll in, and
13 complete Illinois' Teacher Preparation Programs and succeed in
14 their eventual job placement.