



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 2004 is the 50th anniversary of the successful  
3 nationwide trial of the injectable killed polio vaccine that  
4 included "polio pioneer" children; and

5 WHEREAS, The injectable polio vaccines eliminated  
6 naturally occurring polio cases in the United States but have  
7 not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world; and

8 WHEREAS, As few as 57 percent of American children receive  
9 all doses of necessary vaccines during childhood, including the  
10 polio vaccine; and

11 WHEREAS, The success of the polio vaccines has caused  
12 people to forget the 1,630,000 Americans born before the  
13 development of the vaccines who had polio during the epidemics  
14 in the middle of the 20th century; and

15 WHEREAS, At least 70 percent of paralytic polio survivors,  
16 and 40 percent of nonparalytic polio survivors, are developing  
17 post-polio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling  
18 symptoms that occur up to 35 years after the poliovirus attack,  
19 including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and  
20 joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to  
21 anesthesia, cold pain, and difficulty swallowing and  
22 breathing; and

23 WHEREAS, 2004 is the 130th anniversary of the diagnosis of  
24 the first case of post-polio sequelae and the 20th anniversary  
25 of the creation of the International Post-Polio Task Force; and

26 WHEREAS, Research and clinical work by members of the  
27 International Post-Polio Task Force have discovered that  
28 post-polio sequelae can be treated, and even prevented, if  
29 polio survivors are taught to conserve energy and use assistive

1 devices to stop damaging and killing the reduced number of  
2 overworked, polio virus-damaged neurons in the spinal cord and  
3 brain that survived the polio attack; and

4 WHEREAS, Many medical professionals, and polio survivors,  
5 do not know of the existence of post-polio sequelae, or of the  
6 available treatments; and

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the International Post-Polio Task  
8 Force and support groups in our State includes educating  
9 medical professionals and the 20,000,000 polio survivors in the  
10 world about post-polio sequelae through the international  
11 post-polio letter campaign, television public service  
12 announcements provided by the Columbia Broadcasting System and  
13 the National Broadcasting System Company, and a continuing plot  
14 about polio and post-polio sequelae on the National  
15 Broadcasting Company television series "American Dreams";  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
19 the House of Representatives (1) recognizes that there is a  
20 need for every child to be vaccinated against polio; (2)  
21 recognizes the 1,630,000 Americans who survived polio, their  
22 new battle with post-polio sequelae, and the need for education  
23 and appropriate medical care; and (3) proclaims 2004 as The  
24 Year of Polio Awareness to promote vaccination and post-polio  
25 sequelae education and treatment; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Public Health is  
27 urged to establish a public awareness campaign to inform the  
28 general public and local boards of health, physicians,  
29 hospitals, clinics about post-polio sequelae; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
31 presented to the Director of Public Health.