



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Throughout history brave Americans have shed  
3 their blood during wars and conflicts to preserve, protect, and  
4 defend the foundation of the principles of democracy and  
5 freedom; and

6 WHEREAS, In every military conflict and national time of  
7 need since 1818, the brave men and women of the State of  
8 Illinois have risen to the cause of defending democracy; and

9 WHEREAS, These brave Illinois men and women leave behind  
10 family and friends to proudly serve their country; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal government has an obligation to  
12 provide the benefits it has promised to Illinois veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly was dismayed to discover in  
14 December 2004 that the State of Illinois' veterans were ranked  
15 last in the United States in the amount of benefits they  
16 receive through the federal government; and

17 WHEREAS, New reports in February 2006 place Illinois  
18 Veterans last in the nation for being hired through federal  
19 veterans job-placement programs, indicating that the federal  
20 government is not living up to its obligations to Illinois  
21 veterans; and

22 WHEREAS, The report states that only 34 percent of Illinois  
23 veterans and 28 percent of disabled Illinois veterans who  
24 sought help from the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans  
25 Employment and Training Service were hired last year-compared  
26 to the national average of 62 percent and 57 percent  
27 respectively; and

28 WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office estimates

1 700,000 veterans are unemployed and anticipates more each year  
2 as 200,000 service members return to civilian life annually;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, It is unacceptable that Illinois veterans who seek  
5 employment should be left behind by their government;  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
9 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage the United States  
10 Department of Labor and the United States Department of  
11 Veterans Affairs to ensure that benefits due to Illinois  
12 veterans are indeed given to Illinois veterans, including job  
13 placement services afforded to veterans of other states; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois Congressional  
16 delegation to pursue legislative or administrative remedies  
17 needed to ensure that all benefits are available and are in  
18 fact actually received by Illinois veterans in equal proportion  
19 to benefits received by veterans in other states; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be  
22 delivered to the Secretary of the United States Department of  
23 Labor, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and  
24 the Illinois Congressional delegation.