



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Southwest Side of Chicago, with a racially
3 diverse population, suffers from a crisis in overcrowded
4 schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Every school day thousands of children on the
6 Southwest Side of Chicago are bussed from their homes to
7 distant neighborhoods because their neighborhood schools are
8 absolutely filled with students; and

9 WHEREAS, A brand new high school campus, the Little Village
10 Lawndale High School Campus, opened in September of 2005 at a
11 cost of at least \$67 million but only serves 400 students from
12 North Lawndale and Little Village today; and

13 WHEREAS, The four schools at the Little Village Lawndale
14 High School Campus plan to enroll only another 340 freshman
15 students next year, as the 400 current freshman students become
16 sophomores; and

17 WHEREAS, Only one additional class of students will be
18 enrolled at the four schools at the Campus so that the Little
19 Village Lawndale High School Campus will not be at full
20 enrollment until September of 2008; and

21 WHEREAS, The Little Village Lawndale High School Campus
22 reflects the faces of the neighborhoods and enjoys a diverse
23 student body; and

24 WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic diversity enhances the
25 educational experience of all students; and

26 WHEREAS, Each of the four autonomous high schools in the
27 Campus is scheduled to serve only 400 students for a total of
28 1,600 students served at the Campus; and

1 WHEREAS, There are far more than 1,600 students in North
2 Lawndale and Little Village who need the educational resources
3 of the Little Village Lawndale High School Campus; and

4 WHEREAS, Ethnic diversity in the schools provides children
5 with tremendous learning opportunities and remains a federal
6 mandate for the Chicago Public Schools; and

7 WHEREAS, A diverse student body with different races,
8 religions, ethnic backgrounds, and socio-economic backgrounds
9 is consistent with the highest ideals of the United States of
10 America and is a precious benefit to protect in the Chicago
11 Public Schools and in the Little Village and North Lawndale
12 neighborhoods; and

13 WHEREAS, Politics should play no role in determining which
14 students from the neighborhoods of North Lawndale and Little
15 Village get access to the world-class facilities of the Campus;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Chicago
19 Public Schools to recognize the crisis of overcrowding and fill
20 the Little Village Lawndale High School Campus to its full
21 capacity of 1,600 students in September of 2006, and not to
22 wait until 2008 to fill the school in order to end the insult
23 of empty classrooms and full busses; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the racial and ethnic diversity of the
25 Little Village Lawndale High School Campus should be protected
26 and enhanced as a valuable educational component for all
27 students; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the attendance boundary of the Campus should
29 be moved farther east, from the current boundary of Pulaski

1 Avenue, in order to provide more opportunities for children in
2 both the North Lawndale and Little Village neighborhoods; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the Chicago Public Schools to expand
5 the maximum enrollment of the Campus beyond 400 students per
6 high school to a more reasonable and appropriate level to serve
7 more children from North Lawndale and Little Village without
8 sacrificing educational quality.