



HR1499

LRB095 22293 KXB 52608 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, College presidents from more than 100 universities are calling on lawmakers across the nation to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18, citing that current law encourages excessive drinking on campuses; and

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WHEREAS, The call to lower the drinking age is being used to spark national debate about the drinking age; and

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WHEREAS, According to Monitoring the Future, an organization which conducts studies on drug and alcohol use by young people, when the 21-year-old drinking age was effectively mandated by Congress in 1984, 45.4% of college students engaged in binge drinking; and

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WHEREAS, By 2006, that figure was 40.2%, and the percentage of students who reported drinking every day fell by more than a quarter; and

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WHEREAS, A study by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) suggests that, since that time, alcohol-related fatalities have dropped 56%; and

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WHEREAS, The most dramatic decline in these deaths was among children age 16-20, where crashes dropped by nearly 60% -

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1 from 5,224 in 1982 to 2,121 in 2006; and

2 WHEREAS, A recent study published in Accident Analysis and
3 Prevention finds that laws making it illegal for anyone under
4 the age of 21 to possess or purchase alcohol have led to an 11%
5 drop in alcohol-related fatal car crashes; and

6 WHEREAS, The study also purports that states with strong
7 laws against the use of fake IDs report 7% fewer drunk-driving
8 deaths among drivers under the age of 21; and

9 WHEREAS, Bradley University in Peoria has created a strict
10 Comprehensive Alcohol Action Plan that penalizes repeat
11 offenders and requires them to complete an online counseling
12 program; and

13 WHEREAS, Many colleges across the country are attempting to
14 come up with alternatives to dissuade students from
15 participating in alcohol-related activities; and

16 WHEREAS, Combating the cultural stigma of today's society
17 remains the greatest challenge in deterring our young people
18 from using alcohol; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 urge that the legal drinking age in Illinois remain at 21 years
2 of age; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and all
5 public and private university presidents in Illinois.