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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 342

2 WHEREAS, On February 18, 2015, Governor Bruce Rauner's
3 administration released its proposal for the Fiscal Year 2016
4 State budget; and

5 WHEREAS, On that day, the Illinois Department of Human
6 Services announced that it intended to save money by making it
7 more difficult to enter the Division of Rehabilitative Services
8 Home Services Program by changing the minimum threshold for
9 eligibility; the Illinois Department on Aging and the
10 Department of Healthcare and Family Services also announced
11 that it intended to save money by making it more difficult to
12 enter the Community Care Program, Supportive Living
13 Facilities, and nursing homes by changing the minimum threshold
14 for eligibility consistent with the change announced by the
15 Department of Human Services; and

16 WHEREAS, The prior threshold for service was a score of 29
17 on the Determination of Need Assessment; the new proposed
18 threshold for service would be a score of 37 on the
19 Determination of Need Assessment; and

20 WHEREAS, The current Determination of Need minimum of 29
21 covers people with disabilities and seniors who are in need of
22 help in critical areas of daily living; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family
2 Services would carry the administrative responsibility for
3 creating the change by seeking federal approval to amend 2 1915
4 (C) Home and Community-Based Services Waivers to change the
5 Determination of Need Assessment score requirement; and

6 WHEREAS, Changing the score from 29 to 37 would immediately
7 eliminate 10,000 people with disabilities from the Home
8 Services Program; changing the score would also prevent 16,000
9 seniors from becoming eligible for Medicaid waiver service in
10 the next year, and 21,000 more would be eliminated in
11 reassessment in the next year; and

12 WHEREAS, The Members of this Body find it unconscionable to
13 deny tens of thousands of people with disabilities and seniors
14 the opportunity to receive vital care and support services; and

15 WHEREAS, The proposed change to the Determination of Need
16 score was made without any input from those that advocate for
17 the needs of individuals with disabilities and the elderly; and

18 WHEREAS, Each person with a disability in the Home Services
19 Program saves Illinois Medicaid at least \$17,000 a year by
20 living in the community instead of a nursing home; and

1 WHEREAS, Each senior living independently with support
2 from the Community Care Program saves Illinois Medicaid
3 approximately \$24,000 a year by living in the community instead
4 of a nursing home; and

5 WHEREAS, Each resident residing in a nursing home with
6 support from the State's Medicaid Long Term Care Program saves
7 Illinois taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars by
8 preventing unnecessary emergency room and hospital visits; and

9 WHEREAS, Thousands of workers in the Home Services Program,
10 the Community Care Program, and Illinois nursing homes would be
11 left without employment when consumers are made ineligible;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we state our opposition
15 to the proposed change of the Determination of Need score
16 minimum threshold from 29 to 37, which would result in
17 thousands of people with disabilities and seniors being left
18 without critical support for activities of daily living in
19 their own homes and access to critical medical care in nursing
20 homes; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor and the Illinois
22 Department of Human Services to withdraw any and all plans to

1 amend the Medicaid State plan to change the Determination of
2 Need score requirements; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Governor and the Secretary of Human Services.