

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Current studies about what happens to  
3 unsupervised children indicate that when left alone, these  
4 children have higher absentee rates at school, have lower  
5 academic test scores, exhibit higher levels of fear, stress,  
6 nightmares, loneliness, and boredom, are 1.7 times more  
7 likely to use alcohol, and are 1.6 times more likely to smoke  
8 cigarettes; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent data shows that in the City of Chicago  
10 and other communities around this State, the violent juvenile  
11 crime rate soars in the hours immediately after the school  
12 bell rings and children are most likely to be victims of a  
13 violent crime committed by a non-family member between 2 p.m.  
14 and 6 p.m.; and

15 WHEREAS, Research indicates that children who attend high  
16 quality after-school programs have better peer relations,  
17 emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and  
18 conduct in school compared to their peers who are not in  
19 after-school programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Children who attend after-school programs spend  
21 more time in learning opportunities, academic activities, and  
22 enrichment activities and spend less time watching television  
23 than their peers; and

24 WHEREAS, In one study, children who attended an  
25 after-school program missed fewer days of school, had better  
26 homework completion, better school behavior, and higher test  
27 scores; and

28 WHEREAS, Polls show that 92% of Americans believe there  
29 should be organized activities for children and teens during

1 after-school hours; and

2 WHEREAS, Polls show that 75% of Americans are ready to  
3 either pay more taxes or to forego a tax cut to provide  
4 children with good early childhood development programs and  
5 quality after-school programs; and

6 WHEREAS, As working parents can attest, child care  
7 concerns are not over once children are old enough to go to  
8 school; a parent who is employed full time can be away from  
9 home an average of 2,400 hours a year; children spend less  
10 than half of that time in school; if their children  
11 participate in a quality school-age care program or another  
12 organized out-of-school time activity, parents can rest easy  
13 because they know that their children are safe and  
14 supervised; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 the State Board of Education and the Department of Human  
18 Services are directed to convene and co-chair a task force,  
19 to be known as the Illinois After-school Initiative, to  
20 develop a plan to ensure quality after-school programs for  
21 every school-age child in the State and that the Illinois  
22 After-school Initiative shall be comprised of other related  
23 State agencies and private organizations representing without  
24 limitation violence prevention, parents, park districts,  
25 special need populations, private foundations, civic and  
26 cultural organizations, community-based youth service  
27 providers, law enforcement, education, local voluntary  
28 organizations, faith-based communities, health, evaluation,  
29 and research institutions, child and youth advocacy, alcohol,  
30 tobacco, and substance abuse prevention, and mental health;  
31 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the activities of the Illinois  
2 After-school Initiative shall include (i) an assessment of  
3 the state of after-school services in this State, including  
4 identification of the number of children and youth served  
5 statewide in after-school programs, identification of the  
6 number and location of children and youth who are in need of  
7 after-school programs, and identification of the various  
8 funding streams currently supporting after-school programs,  
9 and (ii) the development of a plan for coordinating  
10 after-school services and for achieving a goal of providing  
11 after-school services for every school-age child in this  
12 State; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative plan  
14 shall include strategies for this State to promote  
15 best-practice models for after-school programs and to promote  
16 coordination and collaboration of after-school services at  
17 the local level; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative shall  
19 engage children and youth in development of the plan; and be  
20 it further

21           RESOLVED, That the Illinois After-school Initiative shall  
22 review and report to the General Assembly on model programs  
23 operating in this State and other states and that the review  
24 shall look at program components identified as best-practices  
25 and based on proven research; and be it further

26           RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education and the  
27 Department of Human Services may provide, by grant or  
28 contract, support to a statewide organization for the  
29 development and implementation of the Illinois After-school  
30 Initiative plan and assessment, that funds for the Illinois

1 After-school Initiative shall be sought from the federal  
2 government and State human service code departments, and that  
3 private sponsorship may also be sought; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education and the  
5 Department of Human Services shall report to the Governor and  
6 the General Assembly on the Illinois After-school Initiative  
7 plan and submit recommendations by April 1, 2002; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall  
10 be delivered to the State Board of Education and the  
11 Department of Human Services.