

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The alarming rate of homelessness among mentally  
3 ill persons in the State of Illinois is a great cause for  
4 concern and requires action by the Illinois Housing  
5 Development Authority; and

6 WHEREAS, it has been estimated that 20% to 25% of  
7 homeless people in the United States suffer from some form of  
8 serious mental illness, and, in the Chicago area, certain  
9 areas report that as much as 65% of their homeless population  
10 suffers from mental illness; the Chicago Department of Human  
11 Services determined that from October 1998 through November  
12 1999 there were 15,774 homeless persons in the City of  
13 Chicago alone, or at least 3,155 mentally ill homeless  
14 persons using the national average rate; for fiscal year  
15 2000, the Illinois Department of Human Services reported at  
16 least 2,993 homeless mentally ill persons in Chicago and at  
17 least 5,960 in Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, The hardship to mentally ill persons and the  
19 likelihood of imminent harm and death to mentally ill persons  
20 is greatly exacerbated by the combination of their mental  
21 illness and homelessness; and

22 WHEREAS, Section 7.24h of the Illinois Housing  
23 Development Act (20 ILCS 3805/7.24h), enacted in 1989,  
24 authorized the Illinois Housing Development Authority to  
25 extend loans or grants to finance housing for mentally ill  
26 homeless persons, and required the Illinois Housing  
27 Development Authority to develop a plan for making certain  
28 housing units available to the homeless mentally ill; and

29 WHEREAS, To date, this plan on behalf of the homeless  
30 mentally ill has never been developed; and

31 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives are

1 concerned that measures to alleviate the suffering of these  
2 citizens of the State of Illinois be undertaken; therefore,  
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we urge the Illinois Housing Development Authority to fulfill  
7 its statutory mandate and develop the plan for housing for  
8 the homeless mentally ill as required under Section 7.24h of  
9 the Illinois Housing Development Act (20 ILCS 3805/7.24h);  
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois and to the  
13 Executive Director of the Illinois Housing Development  
14 Authority.