

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In November 1998 voters in Consolidated High  
3 School District 230 passed an \$118 million bond referendum,  
4 one of the largest in Illinois history, to finance the  
5 renovation of three schools; and

6 WHEREAS, The total cost of the renovation project is now  
7 estimated at \$131 million; and

8 WHEREAS, The renovation project was originally scheduled  
9 to be completed in 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, The completion date has been postponed to late  
11 in the year 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to substantial cost-overruns and  
13 delays, various questions have been raised concerning the  
14 management of the project, including whether on-going  
15 renovations pose a health risk to students, whether  
16 relationships between members of the construction oversight  
17 committee and the architectural firm overseeing the project  
18 pose a conflict of interest, and whether bid specifications  
19 have been narrowly drawn thereby limiting competition and/or  
20 increasing costs; and

21 WHEREAS, Other issues related to the management of  
22 Consolidated High School District 230 include ownership of a  
23 school-related consulting firm by top officials of District  
24 230 and the School Board's granting of a 37% pay hike and  
25 additional benefits to the retiring Superintendent; and

26 WHEREAS, These issues directly impact the financial  
27 health, educational environment and managerial soundness of  
28 Consolidated High School District 230 now and for many years  
29 to come; and

30 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education is

1 responsible for general oversight of school issues in  
2 Illinois; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we urge the Illinois State Board of Education to conduct a  
6 review of Consolidated High School District 230 with regard  
7 to the following:

8 1. The causes of cost overruns and delays in the  
9 renovation project, including the District's process for  
10 selecting consultants, architects, general contractors, and  
11 other professional services and for drafting bid  
12 specifications for various goods and services;

13 2. Whether the District's procurement decisions are  
14 adequately documented and appear to have been conducted in an  
15 efficient and impartial manner;

16 3. The total projected cost to the District and the State  
17 of the retirement package, including pension upgrades and  
18 credits and medical coverage benefits, granting to the  
19 District's retiring superintendent; and

20 4. Whether the ownership of a school-related consulting  
21 firm by District officials compromises their services to the  
22 District in any manner; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education may  
24 consult with the Capital Development Board, as needed, for  
25 advice in school construction management issues related to  
26 this resolution; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education is  
28 directed to report its findings to the General Assembly by  
29 December 31, 2001; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
31 presented to the Illinois State Board of Education.