



HR0873

LRB100 20985 MST 36631 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The introduction of exclusionary discipline  
3 should be used only as a method of last resort; and

4 WHEREAS, Exclusionary discipline is any type of school  
5 disciplinary action that removes or excludes a student from the  
6 their traditional educational setting; and

7 WHEREAS, Non-violent offenses carried out by students in  
8 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade often result in suspension  
9 or expulsion from traditional school settings; and

10 WHEREAS, The offenses that lead to such discipline often  
11 stem from a child's emotional, social, or family-related  
12 issues; and

13 WHEREAS, Exclusionary discipline often leads to negative  
14 student outcomes, such as low academic performance, higher  
15 rates of drop-outs, failures to graduate on time, and even  
16 continued disciplinary problems; and

17 WHEREAS, Statistics show African American and Latino youth  
18 in Illinois are more often suspended or expelled when a  
19 progression of disciplinary steps do not have a positive effect  
20 on the issue; and

1           WHEREAS, From the new study "Girlhood Interrupted: The  
2 Erasure of Black Girls' childhood" released by Georgetown Law's  
3 Center on Poverty and Inequality, authors reported that adults  
4 view black girls as " ... less innocent and more adult-like  
5 than their white peers, especially in the age range of 5- 14";  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, The study also states, "This new evidence of what  
8 we call the 'adultification' of black girls may help explain  
9 why black girls in America are disciplined much more often and  
10 more severely than white girls - across our schools and in our  
11 juvenile justice system"; and

12           WHEREAS, The report continues by saying, "Black girls are  
13 five times more likely to be suspended as white girls, and  
14 twice as likely to be suspended as white boys"; and

15           WHEREAS, Lawmakers, educators, counselors, youth councils,  
16 lawyers, and judges in the State of Illinois have insight into  
17 the problems facing youth today; and

18           WHEREAS, A review of current practices as well as proposed  
19 ideas and policies are in order to change exclusionary  
20 practices to a restorative justice model for child discipline;  
21 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 recognize the practice of exclusionary discipline among  
4 pre-kindergarten to 12th grade students occurs at a rate above  
5 and beyond that which is necessary; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Departments of Education,  
7 juvenile court officials, and other legal legislative and court  
8 staff to review current laws and policies related to  
9 exclusionary discipline practices in public schools for  
10 students in prekindergarten through kindergarten who have  
11 committed non-violent offenses; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That we urge the review to 1) examine the number  
13 of exclusionary discipline actions issues by a local education  
14 agency (school district) and the length of each respective  
15 action, 2) detail the type of offenses committed by the  
16 student(s) that led to the disciplinary action, 3) review the  
17 impact the discipline had on the student(s), 4) examine  
18 restorative recommendations that may be used as opposed to  
19 exclusionary practices, 5) identify resources to support  
20 teachers, parents and school personnel as they work to address  
21 the child's social, emotional and behavioral health, and 6)  
22 encourage schools to adopt restorative justice and  
23 disciplinary practices; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice  
3 President of the United States, all members of the U.S.  
4 Congress, and other federal and Illinois state government  
5 officials as appropriate.