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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has been without a complete budget since July of 2015 due to the continuing failures of the Governor and the General Assembly to do their jobs and pass a balanced budget; and

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WHEREAS, Because of these failures, Illinois seniors have lost access to meals-on-wheels and transportation services; home healthcare agencies serving low-income seniors and people with disabilities have closed or reduced service areas; K-12 schools are struggling due to cuts to funding for transportation, special education, and school lunches; and services that help keep kids out of jail have closed in 24 counties; and

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WHEREAS, Programs that provide shelter, counseling, and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault were not funded by the six-month stop-gap budget, resulting in layoffs of counselors and case managers, and building waiting lists for services; and

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WHEREAS, State vendors and community service providers who have unwittingly and willingly lent their services to the State have either received late payments or no payments at all, demonstrating a lack of ethics and dereliction of the duties of

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1 the Governor and the General Assembly; and

2 WHEREAS, This stalemate has placed an undue burden upon our  
3 higher education network, community hospitals, and other  
4 related service-providers that are valuable economic engines  
5 creating jobs, tax revenues, stability, and opportunities for  
6 the people of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, State-owned facilities all over Illinois are in  
8 need of maintenance and repair, whether it be the State  
9 Fairgrounds in Springfield and Du Quoin, the World Shooting  
10 Recreational Complex in Sparta, all State Parks, and the  
11 prisons, hospitals, license facilities, tourism bureaus, and  
12 more in every corner of the State; continued deferred  
13 maintenance will cost the State exponentially more in  
14 construction costs, lost revenue, diminished efficiency, and  
15 loss of good will; and

16 WHEREAS, Equitable contract terms need to be reached with  
17 all State employee unions, including the payment of back-pay  
18 and the full funding of employee health insurance to provide  
19 peace of mind for them and their families, and so that the  
20 State of Illinois can deliver services that have been promised  
21 and upon which the citizens rely; and

22 WHEREAS, Moody's Investor Service rates the State of

1 Illinois the lowest among all of the states, only two levels  
2 above their "junk" rating, a singular travesty considering  
3 Illinois has the fifth largest economy; four Illinois  
4 universities have already had some or all of their debt rated  
5 junk, with downgrades of more universities anticipated this  
6 year; this decline must be reversed; and

7 WHEREAS, The Governor and the General Assembly are inching  
8 ever-closer to a more equitable PK-12 school funding formula;  
9 however, the full positive effects of reforming the school  
10 funding formula cannot be fully leveraged without the benefits  
11 of a complete and enacted State budget; and

12 WHEREAS, The Governor of Illinois is empowered with the  
13 line-item veto and should consider utilizing that power in  
14 order to facilitate a budget more acceptable to him; and

15 WHEREAS, The people are suffering and angry because the  
16 Governor and the General Assembly continue to play politics  
17 with their lives, ignoring the duties of the offices to which  
18 they were elected and foregoing their oaths of office; and

19 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has missed countless  
20 opportunities to address these problems by being in Springfield  
21 for less than half of the working calendar days while the State  
22 is in crisis; and

1           WHEREAS, Instead of being in Springfield and working with  
2           the General Assembly, the Governor spends session days in  
3           Chicago raising money for his re-election and campaigning all  
4           over the State; it is unseemly for anyone of either party to  
5           actively raise funds to campaign for office while the General  
6           Assembly is in session and while the State has a backlog of \$13  
7           billion in unpaid bills; and

8           WHEREAS, Further stalemate can and will be exploited for  
9           political benefit at the expense of those who can least afford  
10          the cost; and

11          WHEREAS, Right now the most important thing State  
12          government can do is to provide the predictability and  
13          stability that comes from having a balanced budget to halt the  
14          migration of residents and businesses from the State and  
15          encourage more to come to Illinois; and

16          WHEREAS, The sooner the Governor and General Assembly  
17          commit to in-person meetings and creating political solutions,  
18          the faster we can avoid the further digging of a hole of debt  
19          and taxes the burden of which future generations of Illinoisans  
20          will bear; therefore, be it

21          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Governor shall fulfill his  
3 responsibilities under Section 2(a) of Article VIII of the  
4 Illinois Constitution and deliver a balanced budget to the  
5 General Assembly; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That once a balanced budget is received from the  
7 Governor, the General Assembly shall fulfill its  
8 responsibilities under Section 2(b) of the Illinois  
9 Constitution by passing a balanced budget, and until a balanced  
10 budget is passed, the General Assembly is to remain in session  
11 Monday through Saturday for at least 10 hours per day; and be  
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall remain in Springfield  
14 while the General Assembly is in session, actively engaged and  
15 working with the General Assembly to end the budget impasse;  
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That under no circumstances shall the  
18 fulfillment of this resolution cost the taxpayers more money in  
19 legislative pay, per diems, or travel expenses; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the Governor and the General Assembly should  
22 spend their energies leading and governing by working for the

1 next generation and not the next election.