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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Bringing a resurgence of economic opportunity and workforce development to underserved areas to ensure that those who have faced historical structural barriers have the same opportunity to participate in the economy and benefit from economic growth as everyone else is part of the Governor's economic plan for Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) supports upgrading Illinois workers' skills to remain current in new technologies and business practices; ETIP enables Illinois companies to remain competitive, expand into new markets, and introduce more efficient technologies into their own operations; incentives are available to pre-qualified Illinois businesses that apply for training funds as part of an Economic Development Incentive Project; and

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WHEREAS, Employment Opportunities, Personalized services, Individualized training, and Career Planning (EPIC) is a pilot program that tests innovative career pathway approaches to increase work opportunities for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, ultimately leading to a reduced dependency on SNAP benefits; this initiative addresses the needs of the underemployed and unemployed SNAP recipients in Illinois who require basic and technical skills and work

1 experience to get good jobs, increase earnings, and reduce  
2 reliance on public assistance; and

3 WHEREAS, Through the Community Services Block Grant  
4 Program (CSBG), Community Action Agencies (CAAs) offer a  
5 variety of services to assist individuals and families in  
6 moving towards self-sufficiency; federal funding is provided  
7 to Illinois' 36 CAAs to deliver locally designed programs and  
8 services for low-income individuals and families; and

9 WHEREAS, The Participation Loan Program (PLP) delivers  
10 participation loans through pre-approved Illinois financial  
11 institutions to accelerate investments and ease traditional  
12 credit underwriting standards for small businesses that may not  
13 otherwise qualify for traditional bank financing; and

14 WHEREAS, Important parts of the Governor's economic plan  
15 for Illinois include investing in transportation, broadband,  
16 and small business development, bringing down barriers to  
17 accessing the job market and capital in communities of color,  
18 and fostering collaboration by developing regional economic  
19 hubs, which can be accomplished by having clear communication  
20 among key economic actors in Illinois including state and local  
21 governments, industry, unions, universities, and non-profits;  
22 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we encourage companies to bring pre-training and pre-hiring  
4 placement centers to underresourced and underserved  
5 communities; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we encourage the Department of Commerce and  
7 Economic Opportunity and the State of Illinois to explore  
8 creating a pilot program or grant program for these companies.