



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services is  
3 charged with acting in the best interest of every child it  
4 serves, helping families by increasing their ability to provide  
5 a safe environment for their children, and strengthening  
6 families who are at risk of abuse or neglect; and

7 WHEREAS, A significant function of government is to promote  
8 the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has taken notice of many  
10 issues surrounding the operations, funding, and execution of  
11 the foster care system that must be addressed to ensure  
12 continued action as well as establish a higher standard for  
13 serving the needs of both foster children and parents;  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Joint Task Force on Foster  
18 Care is created and shall be comprised of 8 members of the  
19 Illinois General Assembly appointed as follows: 2 members of  
20 the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 members  
21 of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; 2  
22 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and 2 members of the  
24 House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of  
25 the House of Representatives; all Joint Task Force members  
26 shall serve without compensation; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the chairperson of the Joint Task Force  
28 shall be selected by the members from among its membership and  
29 the Joint Task Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson;  
30 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That it is the duty of the Joint Task Force to  
2 undertake a comprehensive and thorough review of the operations  
3 of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in  
4 relation to substitute care and related laws and rules  
5 impacting the Illinois foster care system, with the intent of  
6 making recommendations that would improve the system of  
7 Department and private agency accountability, improve  
8 Department functioning within the constraints of limited  
9 budgets, guarantee necessary medical and psychiatric care to  
10 wards within the Department, and increase foster parent  
11 support; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That the Department of Children and Family  
13 Services is urged to provide assistance to and cooperate with  
14 the Joint Task Force, and the Joint Task Force shall request  
15 assistance from any other entity as necessary or useful for the  
16 performance of its duties; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall present a report  
18 to the General Assembly no later than December 15, 2005; a copy  
19 of the report shall be provided to the Director of the  
20 Department of Children and Family Services and the Governor  
21 within 2 weeks of the presentation of the report to the General  
22 Assembly.