



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

2 WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are the  
3 leading cause of mental retardation in western civilization,  
4 including the United States, and are 100% preventable; and

5 WHEREAS, The term FASD includes a broader range of  
6 conditions and therefore has replaced the term fetal alcohol  
7 syndrome as the umbrella term describing the range of effects  
8 that can occur in an individual whose mother consumed alcohol  
9 during pregnancy; and

10 WHEREAS, FASD are a major cause of numerous social  
11 disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure,  
12 juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental  
13 illness, and crime; and

14 WHEREAS, The incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is  
15 estimated at one out of 500 live births and the incidence rate  
16 of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at one out of  
17 every 100 live births; in Illinois, it is estimated that there  
18 are potentially 9,000 children born with FASD each year; and

19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that FASD alone can cost between  
20 one and 5 million dollars per child, not inclusive of societal  
21 costs associated with lost productivity, incarceration, and

1 quality of life; and

2 WHEREAS, Learning and life skills affected by prenatal  
3 alcohol exposure vary among persons, depending on amount,  
4 timing, and pattern of exposure and on each person's current  
5 and past environments; as a result, services for people with  
6 FASD vary according to the parts of the brain that have been  
7 affected, the person's age or level of maturation, the health  
8 or functioning of the person's family, and the person's overall  
9 living environment; given the range of need, services must be  
10 individualized; and

11 WHEREAS, Children diagnosed with FASD consistently have  
12 lower IQs, have difficulty with behavior regulation,  
13 impulsivity, socialization, and poor judgment; and

14 WHEREAS, Early identification of the disability and proper  
15 school interventions can greatly increase the potential for  
16 success in school and in life; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois does not currently have a statewide,  
18 coordinated response to FASD that includes data collection,  
19 educational services, and mental health services; and

20 WHEREAS, The estimated cost that each individual with fetal  
21 alcohol syndrome will cost taxpayers is significant;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Department of Human  
5 Services, in collaboration with the Departments of Children and  
6 Family Services, Healthcare and Family Services, Corrections,  
7 Financial Institutions and Professional Regulation, and the  
8 Illinois State Board of Education to complete an assessment of  
9 existing State and federal assistance programs that includes  
10 the following: conducting public hearings across the State to  
11 gather testimony from parents, educators, healthcare  
12 providers, clinicians, mental health providers, FASD service  
13 providers, and others regarding what services they feel need to  
14 be in place in this State to serve this unique population of  
15 children and adults; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Human Services  
17 shall issue a report highlighting the findings of this  
18 Resolution's requirements and recommendations for improving  
19 Illinois' services to children, adults, and their families  
20 affected by FASD to the Governor and the General Assembly no  
21 later than January 2, 2008; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of the report be sent to the  
23 Directors of the Departments of Children and Family Services,

1 Healthcare and Family Services, Financial Institutions and  
2 Professional Regulation, and Corrections, the Superintendent  
3 of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois General  
4 Assembly, the Office of the Governor, and the Governor's Office  
5 of Management and Budget.