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LRB095 20824 DRJ 49782 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, An intact, involved two-parent home provides the
3 optimal environment through which children grow into
4 productive and responsible adults; and

5 WHEREAS, Parents are the primary "polestar" with respect to
6 raising their children; and

7 WHEREAS, Our society, State and statutes should serve as
8 secondary structures designed to support, not supplant, both
9 parents in their role as the primary nurturers of children; and

10 WHEREAS, Both mothers and fathers provide unique and
11 invaluable contributions towards the development of their
12 children; and

13 WHEREAS, Each parent's contributions to the upbringing of
14 their children are equally necessary to assure children the
15 best opportunity to develop into healthy citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, An intact two-parent home is not always available
17 to children; and

18 WHEREAS, Children of separated or divorced parents will
19 benefit from frequent and continuing involvement with both

1 parents, unless it is shown that such involvement will cause
2 substantial or imminent harm to those children; and

3 WHEREAS, The role of the State in such situations should be
4 to encourage maximum parental involvement with children; and

5 WHEREAS, Any legal determination regarding custody,
6 visitation or parenting time, should demonstrate consistent
7 application of a presumption in favor of fit parents, including
8 parental rights and parental autonomy, and maximum parental
9 involvement so as to nurture children fully under the confines
10 of the family; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
13 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we discourage policies that result in
14 children being unduly influenced, alienated or disenfranchised
15 from their parents; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the State's role in the relationship of
17 children with their parents should be minimal unless a parent
18 may be unfit or pose a substantial harm to them; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That in accordance with these findings, the
21 Illinois General Assembly declares that our public policy is

1 furthered by recognizing both parents' fundamental liberty
2 interest in the care, custody and companionship of their
3 children.