



HR0375

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Behavioral healthcare disparities exist across  
3 Illinois, and these disparities include underserved  
4 populations with behavioral health care needs as one of their  
5 immediate, acute, chronic or co-morbid condition; and

6           WHEREAS, Behavioral health care disparities include  
7 racial, ethnic, and rural behavioral health disparities,  
8 underserved, or professional shortage areas; and

9           WHEREAS, The mental well-being of young people and their  
10 ability to not use alcohol or other drugs is strongly linked to  
11 their academic success; helping students stay healthy is a  
12 fundamental mission of schools; and

13           WHEREAS, According to the US Surgeon General,  
14 approximately 50% of children with emotional disturbances and  
15 behavioral disturbances drop out of school; and

16           WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control,  
17 suicides are among the leading cause of death for the ages of  
18 15 through 54; and

19           WHEREAS, County coroners in Illinois report that in some  
20 counties the suicide rate has doubled since 2002 while in other

1 counties the suicide rate has increased in recent years; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Defense Annual  
3 Suicide Report, suicides in the military started climbing  
4 considerably in 2005, and the trend has not abated; and

5 WHEREAS, Cook County Jail is the largest "mental  
6 institution" in the State due to its active inpatient  
7 psychiatric population, and there are over 1700 people on  
8 psychotropic medication for treatment of bipolar disorder,  
9 clinical depression, and schizoaffective disorder in the jail;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In Cook County Jail, 80% of the women who are  
12 there have a chronic mental illness, and 80% of the women in  
13 that jail are the sole caretakers of their children; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois courts, municipal and county jails, and  
15 the juvenile justice system have direct contact with many  
16 individuals who could be diverted away from these systems if  
17 behavioral health care services were available to them;  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 the Governor, through the use of education, outreach,

1 technology, and innovation, should seek to empower and engage  
2 individuals and communities where behavioral healthcare  
3 disparities exist; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the administration to work with the  
5 98th General Assembly to develop strategies to remediate  
6 behavioral health disparities in areas and regions of the State  
7 with poor access to behavioral health care treatment or  
8 services, with high rates of trauma, or with high rates of  
9 acute or chronic behavioral health illnesses; strategies to  
10 remediate behavioral health care disparities may include work  
11 force development so that primary care physicians and  
12 behavioral health care clinicians would be encouraged to  
13 practice in areas with behavioral health disparities; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the administration to call on  
16 the Department of Human Services in collaboration with the  
17 Department of Healthcare and Family Services to identify a  
18 method to establish pilots for Health Homes, Systems of Care,  
19 and Essential Community Behavioral Health Care Providers to  
20 address the racial, ethnic, and rural behavioral health  
21 disparities, underserved populations, and underserved areas or  
22 professional shortage designated areas; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That we encourage the administration to include

1 in Department of Human Services data collation a standardize  
2 collection and analysis of data on the impact on racial,  
3 ethnic, and rural health care disparities, underserved  
4 populations, and underserved or professional shortage  
5 designated areas; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we encourage the administration to create an  
7 Illinois Behavioral Health Innovation Prize; the Illinois  
8 Behavioral Innovation Prize would provide public recognition  
9 for a new intervention or program that successfully reduces or  
10 eliminates behavioral healthcare disparities; the goal of the  
11 prize is to broaden the scope of community participation and  
12 discover new solutions that can be copied and employed  
13 throughout the State; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to Governor Pat Quinn and the Secretary of Human  
16 Services.