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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of
3 people with disabilities continues to plague our State; and

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WHEREAS, Studies indicate that people with disabilities
5 make up nearly 20 percent of all cases of abuse, neglect, and
6 financial exploitation reported in 2015, and that the total
7 number of reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation
8 has risen nearly 62 percent in the past ten years; and

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WHEREAS, Studies indicate that three out of five victims
10 suffered from some barrier to independent living, with 37
11 percent of all victims being functionally impaired and 16
12 percent being cognitively impaired; and

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WHEREAS, Studies indicate that 74 percent of all reports of
14 abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation occur to
15 individuals living independently in their own dwellings; and

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WHEREAS, There are approximately 26,000 people with
17 disabilities living independently in Illinois and receiving
18 services through Illinois' Home and Community Based Services
19 Program; and

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WHEREAS, The percentage of self-reports of abuse, neglect,

1 and financial exploitation are very low, at only nine percent
2 of all reports, and the typical reasons for this low number are
3 lack of knowledge by the victim as to what constitutes abuse,
4 how to report it, and what help is available; and

5 WHEREAS, Victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation incur
6 health and economic consequences as a result of these
7 situations, which cost the state Medicaid dollars; and

8 WHEREAS, Caseworkers at Home and Community Based Services
9 have direct contact with customers when they enter the program
10 and at least annually subsequent to that; and

11 WHEREAS, Many screening tools already exist for abuse,
12 neglect, and exploitation; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 declare our intent to eradicate abuse, neglect, and financial
16 exploitation of people with disabilities in Illinois; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That we urge the Department of Public Health and
19 the Department of Rehabilitation Services to work together to
20 produce educational materials for people with disabilities in
21 the Home and Community based Services Program in Illinois and

1 explain their rights, the warning signs of abuse, neglect, and
2 financial exploitation, and appropriate reporting methods; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the Department of Public Health and
5 the Department of Rehabilitation Services in their respective
6 regions to provide appropriate educational information and
7 reporting methods to their clients on an annual basis; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois State Medical Society
10 and the Illinois Nurses Association to provide their respective
11 members with appropriate educational materials to assist them
12 with identifying and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, and
13 exploitation of disabled Illinois citizens in the Home and
14 Community Based Services Program; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the
17 Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Illinois
18 State Medical Society, and the Illinois Nurses Association.