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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a responsibility to help
3 crime victims access justice, assistance, and the support they
4 need to heal; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois Crime Victims' Voices: The First-Ever
6 Survey of Illinois Victims' Views on Safety and Justice found
7 that crime is a traumatic experience for nearly everyone who
8 has been a victim and that nearly seven out of 10 crime victims
9 experience traumatic symptoms across demographic
10 characteristics; and

11 WHEREAS, Research has shown that people who are repeatedly
12 victimized are more likely to face mental health problems such
13 as depression, anxiety, and symptoms related to post-traumatic
14 stress disorder and chronic trauma; and

15 WHEREAS, Victims living in communities experiencing
16 concentrated crime are more likely to suffer from greater
17 levels of chronic trauma than those who do not, and national
18 data indicates that young adults, people with low incomes, and
19 residents of urban areas experience the highest rates of
20 victimization; and

21 WHEREAS, Research shows that people under the age of 30 are

1 24 percent more likely to be victims of violent crime and 41
2 percent more likely to be victims of serious violent crime;
3 similarly, people with incomes of less than \$25,000 per year
4 are 25 percent more likely to be victims of violent crime and
5 46 percent more likely to be victims of serious violent crime;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 35 million children have experienced one or
8 more types of childhood adversity, and approximately 72% of
9 children and youth in the United States will have experienced
10 at least one stressful event (e.g., witnessing or being a
11 victim of violence, experiencing sexual, physical, or
12 emotional abuse, suffering a serious injury or medical
13 condition, or the death of a parent or sibling) before the age
14 of 18; and

15 WHEREAS, These adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can be
16 traumatizing and, if not recognized and treated, can affect
17 health across the life span and, in some cases, result in a
18 shortened life span; and

19 WHEREAS, A growing body of research demonstrates that
20 untreated trauma, especially among those who experience repeat
21 victimization, can contribute to substance abuse, mental
22 health issues, housing instability, and other problems that
23 increase risky behaviors and lead to further victimization or

1 crime itself; and

2 WHEREAS, Trauma-informed care has been promoted and
3 established in communities across the country on a bipartisan
4 basis, including in the states of California, Florida,
5 Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and
6 Wisconsin; and

7 WHEREAS, Numerous federal agencies have integrated
8 trauma-informed approaches into their programs and grants,
9 which should be leveraged by the State of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Infants, children, and youth and their families
11 who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma,
12 including those who are low-income, homeless, involved with the
13 child welfare system, involved in the juvenile or adult justice
14 system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping
15 out of an educational institution and live in a community that
16 has faced acute or long-term exposure to substantial
17 discrimination, historical oppression, intergenerational
18 poverty, a high rate of violence or drug overdose deaths,
19 should have an opportunity for improved outcomes; this means
20 increasing access to greater opportunities to meet
21 educational, employment, health, developmental, community
22 reentry, permanency from foster care, or other key goals;
23 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 an urgent and significant need exists to discuss and evaluate
4 public policies affecting trauma and social determinants of
5 health; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance, effectiveness,
7 and need for trauma-informed care among existing programs and
8 agencies in the State of Illinois; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we express our support for the establishment
10 of this effort and urge the citizens of this State to become
11 more aware of trauma and its effects on communities across
12 Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 delivered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney
15 General.