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LRB102 04431 LAW 14449 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois ABLE program is a transformative
3 tool for Illinoisans with disabilities and their families who
4 want to save for additional expenses that come with living
5 with a disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Before ABLE, people with disabilities lived with
7 chronic financial insecurity, and only those with means had a
8 real pathway to financial independence and to achieve the
9 promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act to assure
10 equality of opportunity, full participation, independent
11 living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2014, a great bi-partisan victory was achieved
13 when members of Congress joined together to pass the Stephen
14 Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, making
15 it possible for people with disabilities to save for
16 disability expenses without losing federal means-tested
17 benefits, and more than 43 states plus the District of
18 Columbia have launched ABLE programs since then; and

19 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly passed ABLE
20 legislation in 2015, and Illinois now leads a 18-state
21 National ABLE Alliance, representing approximately one-quarter
22 of the ABLE eligible population nationwide; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois ABLE was launched by the State
2 Treasurer's Office in January 2017, and four years later, as
3 of January 1, 2021, more than 1,900 Illinois ABLE accounts
4 have been opened; approximately \$17 million has been
5 contributed to save for a wide range of qualified disability
6 expenses, such as therapy, adaptive equipment, training,
7 transportation, job coaching, housing, and more; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois ABLE has created a pathway to greater
9 financial independence for Illinoisans with disabilities and
10 their families, incentivizes employment of people with
11 disabilities, and increases economic self-reliance and
12 person-centered independence for many individuals with
13 disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The State Treasurer offers his thanks and
15 heartfelt appreciation for the path that Illinois lawmakers
16 blazed four years ago and acknowledges that we must build upon
17 our progress to keep Illinois ABLE on the path to advancement
18 through cooperation and collaboration with Illinois human
19 services agencies and departments to accomplish the long term
20 goals of the ABLE ACT; and

21 WHEREAS, Illinois human services agencies and departments,
22 including the Illinois Department of Human Services, the

1 Division of Family and Community Services, the Division of
2 Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Mental Health, the
3 Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of
4 Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, the Department of
5 Children and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and
6 Family Services, the Department on Aging, and the Illinois
7 State Board of Education can aid in the identification of
8 ABLE-eligible persons and direct the dissemination of
9 information about ABLE through a direct connection to
10 approximately 300,000 people in the State of Illinois who are
11 ABLE-eligible; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Treasurer recognizes these State
13 agencies and departments for their excellent service to people
14 with disabilities across the State and looks to achieve
15 support from these agencies and departments in helping
16 Illinoisans with disabilities achieve a better life experience
17 through ABLE savings plans as they are essential to the
18 continued success of Illinois ABLE; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage these State
22 agencies and departments to continue their efforts to train
23 staff and share information about Illinois ABLE to the
24 beneficiaries they serve; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Illinois Department of Human Services, the
3 Division of Family and Community Services, the Division of
4 Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Mental Health, the
5 Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of
6 Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, the Department of
7 Children and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and
8 Family Services, the Department on Aging, the Illinois State
9 Board of Education, and the Treasurer's Office.