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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a novel,
3 severe, acute illness, has rapidly spread throughout Illinois,
4 resulting in unnecessary loss of life, loss of economic
5 stability, increasing behavioral health struggles, and new
6 trauma exposure for every race, age, gender, and ethnicity;
7 this has resulted in an increasing public health disaster and
8 acceleration of the current legal, educational, health, and
9 social systems volatility, which brings the need for
10 healthcare and human services transformation for every
11 individual in Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Dysfunction of neurological, endocrine, and other
13 polyvagal mechanisms in the body can lead to chronic and
14 severe physical and mental illness with severe associated
15 cost; the effects of trauma exposures on humans are detailed
16 in research over the last two decades from the evolving
17 sciences of neuroscience, molecular biology, public health,
18 genomics, and epigenetics, revealing that experiences such as
19 a community trauma, individual trauma, and pandemic trauma
20 result in significant impacts at the micro, meso, and macro
21 health system levels; and

22 WHEREAS, The vast short term impact of COVID-19 has led to
23 a surge in suicides, overdoses on drugs and alcohol, abuse,

1 neglect, and general anxiety and depression; the collateral
2 damage will continue to impact the daily living and
3 functionality of individuals due to the increasing isolation
4 and loneliness being experienced; beyond facing the barriers
5 present pre-pandemic, individuals are now facing magnified
6 obstacles related to access to care and unprecedented
7 interruptions to existing care for existing mental illness; it
8 is now vital for mental health and wellness to be viewed as a
9 political priority due to its direct link to social injustice,
10 poverty, systemic discrimination, and racism; and

11 WHEREAS, The continued short-term impact of COVID-19 has
12 been well discussed; the long-term impact, while it may be
13 able to be predicted, is still not fully known and
14 comprehended; by proactively anticipating, applying
15 evidence-based knowledge, and listening closely to the stories
16 of every individual in Illinois, we understand that public
17 health must take a capacity building and foundational approach
18 to the development, dissemination, and support of programs
19 that have been demonstrated or can lead the way to addressing
20 these long-term impacts, including addressing the growing
21 mental and physical health needs and epigenetic impact; and

22 WHEREAS, Covid-19 not only affects society at a cellular
23 level but also leads to social and economic devastation,
24 including the impact it has had on the basic safety and

1 security needs of Illinois families and also the ability to
2 achieve adequate food, water, warmth, and rest, as well as
3 inequality in meeting children's individual educational needs
4 for building the hope and strength of our future; at a time
5 when the struggles for individuals in Illinois are escalating
6 from the loss of power and ability to care for themselves and
7 their families, it is essential to address the social, mental,
8 physical, financial, and educational, short-term and long-term
9 costs of this pandemic, with special attention paid to trauma
10 caused on micro, meso, and macro level systems; it is no longer
11 acceptable to only embrace resilience but defeat the
12 malignancy of history and man-made odds; and

13 WHEREAS, It is necessary, now more than ever, that every
14 individual in Illinois has a fair and just opportunity to be
15 healthy, not only physically but also mentally and
16 emotionally; it is vital to recognize the overwhelming impact
17 of the current pandemic situation and the resulting overall
18 trauma on our communities, families, State, economy, and
19 health and mental well-being; healing in all policies and
20 community healing will only occur when we acknowledge the
21 harms done to individuals in Illinois, especially those of
22 color; understanding, supporting, and recognizing that the
23 siloed approach to policy and support of the past no longer
24 fits into our present and that committing to further health
25 equality, social justice, and sustainable strengthening of the

1 public health system is imperative for healing of every
2 individual in Illinois and our State as a whole; and

3 WHEREAS, Other states, such as Wisconsin, California,
4 Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington,
5 have focused on bipartisan efforts to build trauma-informed
6 states; Illinois has taken steps to begin to establish racial,
7 justice, and children-healing initiatives; the future of
8 healing in Illinois must now shift from trauma-informed care
9 to a healing-centered engagement, which is more effective and
10 less costly, to quickly respond and facilitate the development
11 of a neighborhood-by-neighborhood evidence-based direction;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that policy decisions
15 enacted by the Illinois State Legislature should acknowledge
16 and take into account the principles of trauma whenever
17 possible and consider the concepts of toxic stress, early
18 adversity, and buffering relationships and note the role of
19 early intervention and investment in trauma-informed policies
20 leading to a healing-centered environment; Illinois will join
21 the ranks of a national movement currently led by 13 states to
22 be trauma-informed and will transform to become the first
23 declared Healing Centered State to close the empathy gap as
24 important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a

1 more prosperous and sustainable State through investing in
2 human capital; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That Illinois should invest in technological
4 connectivity that includes detailed information and resources
5 on trauma-informed care, standards for providing
6 evidence-based trauma-informed treatment, peer to peer
7 networking, and creation of belonging through narrative
8 expression; this will happen by development of a
9 bi-directional communication tool that is accessible to
10 communities through all of Illinois; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That Illinois should move from a siloed,
12 individual approach to a collaborative, person-centered
13 healing approach, to identify, strengthen, and empower
14 individuals and communities to craft a future positive history
15 of Illinois; Illinois will light the way by creating a Healing
16 Capacity Building Center housed at a public health association
17 in Illinois to provide consultation to educational, legal,
18 health, and other institutions and agencies including but not
19 limited to needs assessments, observation, individual and
20 group debriefing, and ongoing coaching and mentoring; the goal
21 is not to recreate but to act as a catalyst for supporting
22 existing services and programming to eliminate the currently
23 accepted policy of violence in our State; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That by providing financial backing to a renewed
2 focus on rebuilding healthcare and human services systems
3 further damaged by COVID-19 in such a way that will meet and
4 surpass national standards of trauma-informed systems, the
5 State of Illinois will be able to move to a focus on healing.