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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois regards the health of our children to be of paramount importance to families in our State; and

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WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and social and psychological well-being of the children of our State; and

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WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois considers protecting the health of our children to be essential to the well-being of our youngest citizens and the quality of life in our State; and

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WHEREAS, The Legislature considers the All Kids Program, which is currently providing health coverage to approximately 160,000 children, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the value of the All Kids Program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Illinois considers  
2 the federal funding available for the All Kids Program to be  
3 indispensable to providing health benefits for children of  
4 modest means; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the members of the  
8 Illinois delegation to the United States Congress to ensure  
9 that the Congress timely reauthorizes the State Children's  
10 Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to ensure federal funding for  
11 the All Kids Program; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That the Legislature proclaims that all  
13 components of State government should work together with  
14 educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents  
15 to ensure that all available public and private assistance for  
16 providing health benefits to uninsured children in this State  
17 be used to the maximum extent possible; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent  
19 to each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.