



SJ0080

LRB096 15335 MJR 30615 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children provided with
3 recess are more focused, on-task, and able to concentrate on
4 educational material than those who are not afforded a recess
5 period; cognitive function improves when a child has the
6 opportunity for physical exercise and active play; and

7 WHEREAS, Obesity rates among children have skyrocketed in
8 recent years, with one in 3 American children now being
9 considered overweight or obese; recess provides children with
10 the opportunity for physical exercise during the school day;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Recess is essential for providing students with a
13 less structured period of time in which to engage in social
14 interactions and develop interpersonal relationships with
15 peers; it is often during this time that children improve their
16 leadership and conflict resolution skills; and

17 WHEREAS, A large number of students go every school day
18 with no opportunity for a recess period; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Recess in Schools

1 Task Force; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with
3 examining the barriers facing schools in providing daily recess
4 to every age-appropriate student and making recommendations
5 for overcoming those obstacles; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task force shall be comprised of the
7 following 15 members:

8 (1) 2 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom
9 shall be a medical professional with expertise in
10 children's health issues;

11 (2) one member appointed by the President of the
12 Senate;

13 (3) one member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

14 (4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives;

16 (5) one member appointed by the House Minority Leader;

17 (6) one member appointed by the Chicago Board of
18 Education;

19 (7) one member appointed by the education labor
20 organization representing Chicago public school teachers;

21 (8) one member appointed by a State-wide education
22 labor organization;

23 (9) one member appointed by another State-wide
24 education labor organization;

1 (10) one member appointed by an organization
2 representing principals;

3 (11) one member appointed by a Chicago-based coalition
4 of low-income mothers and grandmothers focusing on family
5 issues;

6 (12) one member appointed by a parent-teacher
7 organization;

8 (13) one member appointed by an organization
9 advocating for juvenile justice reform;

10 (14) one member appointed by an organization that
11 advocates for healthy school environments; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet regularly and
14 submit a final report to the General Assembly by June 30, 2010
15 with its recommendations for bringing recess back to the
16 maximum number of students.