



SR0596

LRB097 20177 GRL 65586 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States economy is experiencing the worst recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s; and

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WHEREAS, At 26%, 2011 was the worst summer teen (16 to 19) employment rate in post-World War II history, with black and Hispanic youth being the hardest-hit groups; and

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WHEREAS, In the summer of 2011, more than 2 million low-income youth were out of work and on the streets; and

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WHEREAS, In 2011, 73% of all teens in Illinois were jobless; and

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WHEREAS, The jobless rate of teens in Illinois rose from 50% in 2000 to 72% in 2011; black teen joblessness rose from 79% in 2000 to 88% in 2011, while Latino teen joblessness rose from 60% to 70%; and

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WHEREAS, In Chicago, black teen joblessness was at 90% in 2010, Latino teen joblessness was at 81%, and white teen joblessness was at 76%; and

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WHEREAS, From 1964 until its end in 2000, a separate summer youth employment program for over 750,000 low-income youth was

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1 in place; and

2 WHEREAS, Along with the short-term improvement in their
3 earnings and income, teen employment has a variety of long-term
4 benefits for youth; the more that teens work when they are 16
5 and 17, the more likely they are to work when they are 18 to 21
6 years old; teen employment also raises the average earnings of
7 youth when they are 25 years old; and

8 WHEREAS, Teens who work are more likely to get trained by
9 their employers via formal apprenticeship training; in
10 addition, low-income youth who work more while attending high
11 school, especially males, are less likely to drop out of high
12 schools, and female teens who work more are less likely to get
13 pregnant; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2009, the U.S. Congress and President Obama
15 passed a \$787 billion stimulus for the economy, including \$1.2
16 billion for summer youth employment that employed over 330,000
17 jobless youth across the country; and

18 WHEREAS, There is a great need to continue the summer youth
19 employment program during the summer of 2012, but there is no
20 funding allocated for the program at this point; and

21 WHEREAS, In Congress, United States Representative George

1 Miller has introduced H.R. 3425 and United States Senator
2 Richard Blumenthal has introduced S. 1861, both of which are
3 known as the Pathways Back to Work Act of 2011; the Act would
4 allocate \$5 billion for summer and year-round employment,
5 education, and training for disadvantaged youth and adults;
6 this funding would allow teens and adults to earn money while
7 they are producing meaningful work; these teens and adults
8 would spend this money immediately, providing a direct economic
9 stimulus to the U.S. economy; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge President
12 Barack Obama and Congress to pass the \$5 billion Pathways Back
13 to Work legislation as soon as possible to create an employment
14 program throughout the year and with a particular emphasis on
15 the summer for 500,000 youth and adults, by combining education
16 and productive work in their neighborhoods; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to President Barack Obama and the members of the
19 Illinois congressional delegation.