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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Employing youth is not only a vital and effective
3 way to prevent violence, but it is also a means for encouraging
4 youth to stay in school; it provides much-needed financial
5 support to them and their families while serving as a critical
6 stepping-stone to future employment; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Illinois youth unemployment rate was
8 27%, a 10% decrease from 2006; Illinois is 1 of 10 states with
9 the highest teen unemployment rate; the youth unemployment rate
10 in Chicago is 19.6%; and

11 WHEREAS, African-American teens have the lowest
12 unemployment rate compared to other ethnic and racial groups;
13 African-American males aged 16-19, living in Chicago, face the
14 most uncertainty in employment; and

15 WHEREAS, Almost 23% of the city's 20 to 24 year-olds were
16 out of work and school, compared to less than 10% of Chicago's
17 teens; and

18 WHEREAS, According to a report by the Center for Economic
19 and Policy Research, 92% of Chicago's African-American male
20 teens were unemployed; only 6% of low-income African-American
21 teens were employed in comparison with 13% of Hispanics and 25%

1 White males from similar economic backgrounds; and

2 WHEREAS, The report noted that students who do not work
3 while in school face greater chances of dropping out of high
4 school as well as having increased incidences of teenaged
5 childbearing and juvenile delinquency and arrests; and

6 WHEREAS, The report also stated that higher rates of youth
7 unemployment lead to increased tax burdens for other workers as
8 governments forgo income tax revenue, Social Security, and
9 Medicare taxes and have to pay out more in welfare and
10 unemployment insurance costs; it is estimated that high youth
11 unemployment costs various governments \$25 billion a year; and

12 WHEREAS, Across Illinois, the teen employment rate fell
13 from just under 50% in 2000 to 28% in 2012 - the lowest rate in
14 the 42 years for which such data exist; if Illinois teens had
15 been able to maintain their 1999-2000 employment rates during
16 the past year, there would have been another 151,000 teens at
17 work in Illinois in 2011-2012; and

18 WHEREAS, The investment to hire youth is lower than hiring
19 seasoned individuals; companies have the opportunity to train
20 newcomers possibly, for their own businesses or outside
21 prospects; and

1 WHEREAS, Younger individuals are more technologically
2 advanced and possess more unique skill sets that can benefit
3 any company; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 encourage businesses to employ teens and young adults in order
7 to help alleviate the youth unemployment that contributes to
8 the demise of communities; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That employers would be not only providing a
10 critical asset for their own businesses but preparing the next
11 generation to become productive citizens of society.