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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Pioneer Center is a not-for-profit agency that helps under-served children and adults with developmental, cognitive, and mental disabilities; the center offers an array of services including early intervention for children and families, vocational and rehabilitation training, mental health counseling, senior care, assisted living, residential, respite care, and several satellite programs; and

WHEREAS, The Pioneer Center serves the people of McHenry County, where between 1980 and 2000, the number of people receiving mental health services increased by 150 percent; and

WHEREAS, Under the Governor's proposed FY 03 Budget, the Pioneer Center will lose over \$496,000 or over 12.3 percent of its funding from the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, A loss from the Developmental Training and Community Employment Service grants to fee-for-service conversion and a 2.5 percent cut is projected at approximately \$178,000; and

WHEREAS, Changes to its Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) funding will result in a net loss of \$140,300 for the Pioneer Center; and

WHEREAS, Program cuts in the office of Developmental Disabilities will result in a loss to the Pioneer Center's Community Programs of \$10,700; and

WHEREAS, The Regular Work (Sheltered Workshop) will lose over \$11,600 in 2.5 percent of its grant and \$51,200 in fees due to the 20 percent cut; and

WHEREAS, All other vocational/day programs serving

1 persons with developmental disabilities, including Work
2 Adjustment Training and Evaluation and Senior Care, will lose
3 over \$3,500; and

4 WHEREAS, The agency's cost of doing business has
5 increased dramatically due to increased health insurance
6 rates, increases in worker compensation costs, and increased
7 utility costs; in addition, there will be no 2 percent "Cost
8 of Doing Business" increase for community providers on April
9 1, 2002 as promised; and

10 WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed budget will force the
11 Pioneer Center to reduce services, cut staff, refuse some
12 clients services, and deny many vulnerable people the
13 services they need; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we urge Governor Ryan and the Secretary of Human Services to
17 help restore the \$496,000 in cuts to the Pioneer Center; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Governor of the State of Illinois and to the
21 Secretary of Human Services.