

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Local School Councils were established under the  
3 Chicago School Reform Act of 1988, as a vehicle for parent,  
4 community, teacher and student empowerment in Chicago Public  
5 Schools; and

6 WHEREAS, Local School Councils are part of the late Mayor  
7 Harold Washington's legacy of accessibility and accountability  
8 to the public; and

9 WHEREAS, Local School Councils members are publicly  
10 elected, and Local School Councils stand as a national model  
11 for local site management and democracy in public education;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Research by Designs for Change on 144 schools that  
14 have made consistent improvement over the past 15 years  
15 indicates that Local School Councils have been a critical  
16 component to school improvement in the city of Chicago; and

17 WHEREAS, Research by the Consortium on Chicago School  
18 Research summarized that "the vast majority of LSC's are viable  
19 governance organizations that responsibly carry out their  
20 mandated duties and are active in building school and community  
21 partnerships."; and

1 WHEREAS, There is no research that suggests that Local  
2 School Councils are not effective vehicles for local school  
3 leadership; and

4 WHEREAS, There is significant public sentiment that there  
5 is insufficient institutional support for Local School Council  
6 support and development; and

7           WHEREAS, Research by the University of Illinois at Chicago  
8           and the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization chronicles the  
9           negative impact of central office decisions on the education of  
10          low-income children when community wisdom is ignored; and

11          WHEREAS, Recommendations from 2 major studies have called  
12          for more support for Local School Councils; and

13          WHEREAS, There are major initiatives sponsored by  
14          community-based and non-CPS organizations that provide models  
15          for support and training of Local School Councils; therefore,  
16          be it

17          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18          NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19          SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we support the empowerment of  
20          Local School Councils as effective local, publicly-elected

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1           decision-making bodies in the city of Chicago and will sponsor  
2           subject-matter hearings on the needs of Local School Councils  
3           to ensure their continued success.