

**RESOLUTION URGING THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois owes the University of Illinois \$487 million dollars and the nine public universities \$900 million. In 1990 the State of Illinois contributed nearly half of the budget of the University of Illinois but now contributes only 16%; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois is proposing to further cut the budgets of public universities by another \$400 million. These cuts will lead to fewer classes for students, a 20% tuition hike, fewer teachers, less support staff to assist students and less research. Larger class sizes and less staff will invariably translate into a less valuable college experience for students as they will have much more limited access to professors, teaching assistants, career advisors, volunteer opportunities and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the cuts will harm Chicago, poor, minority and first-generation students most of all; and

WHEREAS, the three University of Illinois campuses educate over 12,500 Chicagoans every year, 8,200 at the Chicago campus alone;

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois Medical Center serves as the principal educator of Illinois' physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other health care professionals. The Medical Center provides 600,000 patient visits a year, 80,000 of which are Chicagoans. The proposed budget cuts severely threaten the Medical Center's ability to meet the demand for healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The proposed budget cuts will harm research and development necessary for a competitive global city and state, causing further detriment to the economy of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The University of Illinois produces near \$13 billion per year in economic impact including the creation of more than 150,000 jobs. The University of Illinois-Chicago is one of the City's top twenty employers with over 12,000 employees, 5,856 of which are Chicagoans. The proposed budget cuts put these positions at risk, increasing the already high unemployment numbers in the State of Illinois and City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert Fioretti, Daniel Solis, Walter Burnett and Brendan Reilly have apprised this august body of this occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled this 10th day of March, 2010 A.D., do hereby express our sincere desire for the Governor, Comptroller and State legislators of Illinois to reexamine next year's proposed University budget cuts and pay the state's current debt to said public Universities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Illinois.

ROBERT FIORETTI
Alderman, 2nd Ward

DANIEL SOLIS
Alderman, 25th Ward

WALTER BURNETT
Alderman, 27th Ward

BRENDAN REILLY
Alderman, 42nd Ward