

SUBSTITUTE TO FILE 17-1126
Criminal Justice Committee 2/8/2017

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND JOB READINESS IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, with a population of 5.3 million, Cook County is the second largest county in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cook County operates the largest county public hospital system in the nation through the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (“CCHHS”); and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has supplied more than \$500 million in support to CCHHS last year; and

WHEREAS, Cook County operates the largest trial court system in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Cook County operates the largest single-site jail complex in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has supplied more than \$200 million in support to county entities including the Circuit Court of Cook County and the Cook County Jail last year; and

WHEREAS, Cook County, through the Justice Advisory Council and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, has provided anti-violence intervention, workforce development services including: job training and job placement programs to more than 100,000 residents of Cook County annually; and

WHEREAS, all communities in Cook County are in need of anti-violence and job training resources; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges the federal government to support federal anti-gun trafficking legislation that would stop the flow of illegal weapons into Cook County and make firearms trafficking a federal crime; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners also requests that the federal government preserve and increase the Affordable Care Act coverage options that ensure medical coverage for mental health and substance abuse treatment in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should provide additional resources to hospitals in Cook County to assist in establishing specialized trauma units in which to treat victims of violence; and

WHEREAS, additional federal resources should also come in the form of economic investment in all Cook County communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can assist the Circuit Court of Cook County and local law enforcement by utilizing federal resources to help protect the public health, strengthen our courts, provide jobs and help local police officers in curbing violence with improved data efforts, technology and training; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that elected officials in their leadership capacities provide the crucial moral and public support to law enforcement officials as they undertake the difficult and dangerous task of combatting the epidemic of violence; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has and will continue to apply for federal grants to ensure continuation of programs to support its public health, public safety and workforce programs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners and President of the Board that this Resolution serves as a formal request to the federal government to continue providing additional resources to protect the public health, strengthen our courts, provide jobs and to fight the violence plaguing Cook County.