

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 11

## 92<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1284L.011

1           **Whereas**, current studies indicate that children left at home alone and unsupervised  
2 have lower academic test scores, have higher absentee rates at school, exhibit higher levels of  
3 fear, stress, nightmares, loneliness, and boredom, are 1.7 times more likely to use alcohol, and  
4 are 1.6 times more likely to smoke cigarettes; and  
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6           **Whereas**, recent data shows that violent juvenile crime rates soar and children are  
7 most likely to be victims of a violent crime committed by a nonfamily member between the  
8 hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., the hours immediately after school; and  
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10          **Whereas**, according to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, children are at  
11 greater risk of being involved in crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy in the hours after  
12 school, especially between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.; and  
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14          **Whereas**, the most common activity for children after school is watching  
15 television, resulting in an average 23 hours of television watching per week; and  
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17          **Whereas**, the parents of more than 800,000 Missouri school-age children work  
18 outside the home; and  
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20          **Whereas**, according to the estimates of the Urban Institute of the United States  
21 Census Bureau, at least 7 million and as many as 15 million "latchkey children" return to an  
22 empty house on any given afternoon; and  
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24       **Whereas**, in the United States, families worry about their children being unsafe and  
25 having too much idle, unsupervised time; and  
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27       **Whereas**, the United States Departments of Education and Justice report that  
28 children in quality out-of-school programs have better academic performance, school attendance,  
29 behavior, and greater expectations for the future; and  
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31       **Whereas**, children who attend high quality out-of-school programs have better peer  
32 relations, emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and conduct in school  
33 compared to their peers who are not in out-of-school programs; and  
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35       **Whereas**, children who attend out-of-school programs spend more time in learning  
36 opportunities, academic activities, and enrichment activities, and spend less time watching  
37 television than their peers; and  
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39       **Whereas**, children who attend out-of-school programs miss fewer days of school,  
40 have better homework completion, better school behavior, and higher test scores; and  
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42       **Whereas**, the United States Congress has recognized the beneficial impact of out-  
43 of-school programs to our youth, and has increased the funding of out-of-school programs  
44 administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and  
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46       **Whereas**, 92% of all Americans believe there should be organized activities for  
47 all youth during out-of-school hours; and  
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49       **Whereas**, it is estimated that less than 25% of all school-age children attend any  
50 out-of-school program, leaving 75% of our youth without a safe, supportive, and enriching  
51 environment during the unsupervised hours after the formal school day ends; and

52       **Whereas**, the Joint Interim committee on After-School Programs has studied  
53 several of the above-mentioned issues during the tenure of the Ninety-first General Assembly  
54 and recommends that a similar study committee be established to continue the study during the  
55 tenure of the Ninety-second General Assembly:  
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57       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the members of the House of  
58 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
59 concurring therein, that the "Joint Legislative Committee on Out-of-School Programs" be created  
60 to be comprised of five members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate  
61 and the Senate Minority Floor Leader and five members of the House of Representatives,  
62 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Floor Leader;  
63 and  
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65       **Be it further resolved** that the committee continue and expand the in-depth  
66 studies conducted by the prior Joint Interim Committee on After-school Programs and to make  
67 a comprehensive analysis of the quantity and quality of Missouri out-of-school programs,  
68 including the solicitation of information from appropriate state agencies, public schools, youth  
69 development organizations, law enforcement agencies and juvenile officers, youth development  
70 and education experts, and the public (including youth) regarding the status of out-of-school  
71 programs; and  
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73       **Be it further resolved** that the committee, in consultation with the  
74 Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Social Services, and all other relevant  
75 agencies, make recommendations for an efficient and effective development plan to provide the  
76 opportunity for every Missouri school-age child to access quality out-of-school programs and  
77 design a system to train, mentor, and support out-of-school programs, and thereby guarantee their  
78 sustainability; and  
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80       **Be it further resolved** that the committee be authorized to hold hearings as  
81 it deems advisable, and that the staffs of Senate Research, House Research, and the Committee  
82 on Legislative Research provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services

83 requested by the committee; and

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85 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly endorses all of state  
86 government to enthusiastically encourage our citizens to engage in innovative out-of-school  
87 programs and activities that ensure that all Missouri school-age children are not only safe, but  
88 also productive when the school day ends; and

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90 **Be it further resolved** that the committee report its recommendations and  
91 findings to the General Assembly by January 1, 2005, and the authority of such committee shall  
92 terminate on December 31, 2004, unless reauthorized.