



HR0105

LRB101 08456 ALS 53531 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, In the wake of a new federal law aimed at reducing
3 incarceration, a broad coalition of business groups is
4 pledging to hire workers with criminal backgrounds; and

5

WHEREAS, The First Step Act, a new federal law focused on
6 criminal justice reform, reduced prison terms for nonviolent
7 drug offenses and gave judges more discretion in setting those
8 sentences; the First Step Act eliminated the "three strikes"
9 rule that imposed a mandatory life sentence for three or more
10 drug convictions; and

11

WHEREAS, The Federal sentencing guidelines were created to
12 allow for consistency and more transparency in the federal
13 system; and

14

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois does not have strict
15 sentencing guidelines, and charging decisions may range based
16 on the county; ultimately, when sentencing, a state judge has
17 more discretion than a Federal judge; and

18

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has created the Violent
19 Crime Intelligence Task Force; led by the Department of the
20 State Police, it will identify and utilize the best practices
21 in drug-diversion programs and other community-based services

1 to redirect low-level offenders; the task force aims to find
2 ways to help low-level offenders integrate back into the
3 community and to redirect those low-level offenders in a
4 productive manner; and

5 WHEREAS, The State's efforts encourage lower recidivism
6 rates and also encourage previous inmates to become productive,
7 working citizens of the State of Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, This movement is led by billionaire industrialist
9 Charles Koch, who has stated that "as business people, this is
10 an opportunity to make the country better and help people
11 improve their lives"; he believes that businesses have a
12 responsibility to ensure former inmates have the opportunity to
13 find a job and stay out of jail; and

14 WHEREAS, Following the Koch network initiative, businesses
15 in Illinois should be helping to create opportunities for
16 former inmates in the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we encourage businesses owners in the State of Illinois to
20 recruit and to hire qualified candidate workers with criminal
21 pasts; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois
3 Retail Merchants Association, and the Illinois Manufacturers'
4 Association.