



HJ0128

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association states that
3 racism contributes to health inequities in the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Social determinants of health, meaning the social
6 and material factors that influence health outcomes, have a
7 lifelong impact beginning even before birth; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) has
9 expressed that racism is a driving force of the social
10 determinants of health due to the resulting inequalities in a
11 number of matters, including housing, education, and
12 employment; and

13 WHEREAS, The APHA clarifies that racism is a social system
14 with multiple dimensions; individual racism is internalized or
15 interpersonal, while systemic racism is institutional or
16 structural and is a system of structuring opportunity and
17 assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one
18 looks; this system unfairly disadvantages specific individuals
19 and communities while unfairly giving advantages to other
20 individuals and communities and saps the strength of the whole
21 society through the waste of human resources; and

1 WHEREAS, Almost all of the four hundred years of Black
2 Americans' experience was under slavery and Jim Crow laws that
3 subjected Black people to hardship and disadvantage in all
4 areas of life; and

5 WHEREAS, The Heartland Alliance Social IMPACT Research
6 Center's 2018 Poverty Report explains that poverty and violence
7 disproportionately impact minority communities, which are
8 characterized by lack of adequate public services, lack of
9 educational opportunities, poorer health outcomes, asset and
10 income inequality, and more; the underlying cause of all
11 mentioned above is rooted in historic and current systemic
12 racism, such as redlining, discrimination in schools, and other
13 practices; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Anthropological Association asserts
15 that genetic analyses show race to be a social construct not
16 rooted in meaningful biological difference; and

17 WHEREAS, There is clear data that racism negatively impacts
18 the lives of people of color in Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association says that,
20 because of poverty and discrimination, racial minority
21 children are more likely to experience traumatic events than
22 White children; childhood trauma has negative impacts on

1 academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes; and

2 WHEREAS, Statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease
3 Control show a national disparity between Black and White
4 infant mortality rates with the State of Illinois having one of
5 the highest disparities between Black and White infant
6 mortality rates; and

7 WHEREAS, 2018 data collected by the Illinois Department of
8 Public Health reveals that non-Hispanic Black women are six
9 times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition when
10 compared to a non-Hispanic White woman; Black women had the
11 highest rate of severe maternal morbidity in Illinois from 2016
12 to 2017 with a rate of 101.5 per 10,000 deliveries; and

13 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
14 reported that seventy-one percent of youth in youth
15 correctional facilities were Black despite Black youth
16 representing only three percent of the people in Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, The September 2020 Poverty, Income & Health
18 Insurance Update by the Heartland Alliance shows that the
19 poverty rate for Black Illinoisans is three times the poverty
20 rate of White Illinoisans, and the median income for Black
21 households is only fifty-eight per cent of the statewide
22 median; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois Department of Public Health data
2 indicates that Black Illinoisans have higher mortality rates in
3 heart disease, cancer, and opioid overdose and higher incidence
4 of diabetes compared to White Illinoisans; and

5 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health stated
6 that although health indicators such as life expectancy and
7 infant mortality have improved for most Americans, minorities
8 still experience shorter life expectancy and higher rates of
9 disability compared with non-minorities; and

10 WHEREAS, The APHA has identified law enforcement violence
11 as a public health issue that disproportionately affects
12 marginalized groups, including people of color, impacting both
13 physical and mental health outcomes; and

14 WHEREAS, The impact of racism on public health deserves
15 action from all levels of government; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
18 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare racism to be a public
19 health crisis affecting our entire State; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we ask the Governor to establish a working

1 group to promote racial equity throughout this State; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That we support the establishment of a working
4 group to address these issues and to:

5 (1) Create a publicly accessible glossary of terms and
6 definitions concerning racism and health equity;

7 (2) Promote community engagement and provide tools for
8 government agencies to engage actively and authentically with
9 communities of color;

10 (3) Continue to work to build alliances with
11 organizations that have a legacy and track record of
12 confronting racism;

13 (4) Encourage community partners and stakeholders in
14 the education, employment, housing, and criminal justice and
15 safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and
16 take appropriate action;

17 (5) Continue to promote racially equitable economic
18 and workforce development in Illinois;

19 (6) Continue to promote racially equitable hiring and
20 promotion of all employees, including State employees;

21 (7) Provide training to all elected officials, staff,
22 funders, and grantees on workplace biases and how to mitigate
23 them;

24 (8) Promote and encourage all policies that prioritize
25 the health of people of color;

1 (9) Support local, state, regional, and federal
2 initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systematic
3 racism and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences
4 and trauma;

5 (10) Incorporate educational efforts to address and
6 dismantle racism and to expand understanding of racism and how
7 racism affects individual and population health; and

8 (11) Secure adequate resources to successfully
9 accomplish the aforementioned activities; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we are committed to reviewing all portions
11 of Illinois state law with a racial equity lens; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That we are committed to conducting all human
14 resource, vendor selection, and grant management activities
15 with a racial equity lens, including reviewing all internal
16 policies and practices such as hiring, promotion, leadership
17 appointments, and funding; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 delivered to the Governor's Office and to all members of the
20 General Assembly.