



HR0229

LRB101 11825 MST 58733 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Jussie Smollett, a professional actor and  
3           celebrity, reported to law enforcement on January 29, 2019 that  
4           he had, earlier on that day, been assaulted on a Chicago street  
5           by two men; in the alleged incident, Smollett told law  
6           enforcement that he had been subjected to assault, battery, and  
7           acts that could be characterized as life-threatening,  
8           accompanied by racial, homophobic, and political slurs; and

9           WHEREAS, Jussie Smollett's report of the alleged January 29  
10          crime against him created a sensational media story, with  
11          Smollett frequently repeating his story for the press,  
12          especially 24-hour cable news; the repeated story was  
13          accompanied by repeated commentary, delivered by alleged  
14          experts, on the dangers of the streets of Chicago and the  
15          purported significance of the alleged incident to the overall  
16          climate of racial relations in the United States; and

17          WHEREAS, Questions began to be raised about Jussie  
18          Smollett's story and the veracity of the alleged incident; and

19          WHEREAS, On February 19, 2019, Cook County State's Attorney  
20          Kim Foxx announced that she had recused herself from the  
21          investigation, due to what she described as her familiarity  
22          with potential witnesses in the case; and

1           WHEREAS, On February 20, 2019 Jussie Smollett was charged  
2 with a Class 4 felony for filing a false police report; the  
3 actor was booked and taken into custody on the same day, and  
4 the Chicago Police Department released extensive information  
5 on what they described as a hoax crime, an incident where a  
6 purported victim falsely claims to have been victimized in  
7 order to grasp fame, grab attention, make political points, or  
8 some combination of all of the above; and

9           WHEREAS, On February 21, 2019, Jussie Smollett was released  
10 from custody, it being described that a friend of the actor had  
11 posted \$10,000 bond to gain his release; and

12           WHEREAS, Heavy press coverage of the alleged incident  
13 continued, with severe criticisms being leveled against Jussie  
14 Smollett and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx; and

15           WHEREAS, On March 8, 2019, Jussie Smollett was indicted on  
16 16 separate felony counts of "false report of offense" arising  
17 from the incident, the separate counts being related to  
18 separate elements of the statements Smollett had made to law  
19 enforcement; and

20           WHEREAS, In the days following this indictment, widespread  
21 reports were spread by cable news to the effect that Jussie

1 Smollett and his attorneys were trying to wield political clout  
2 to get the charges against him negotiated, pled down, or  
3 dropped; and

4 WHEREAS, On March 26, 2018, a dramatic announcement altered  
5 the terrain of the Jussie Smollett case; it was announced that  
6 Smollett would perform unspecified community service and  
7 forfeit the bond allegedly posted by his friend on February 21,  
8 and in return, all felony charges would be dropped and the  
9 court file of the incident would be sealed; and

10 WHEREAS, The announcement of this court proceeding and  
11 sealing was publicly criticized by Eddie Johnson, the  
12 superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, who stated  
13 that 'justice was not served'; and

14 WHEREAS, This announcement left unanswered questions as to  
15 the roles of actor Jussie Smollett, Cook County State's  
16 Attorney Kim Foxx, First Assistant Cook County State's Attorney  
17 Joseph Magats (the prosecutor of record subsequent to State's  
18 Attorney Foxx's recusal), and other political figures who may  
19 have been involved in the case; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we request that the Attorney General of Illinois conduct a

1 full, prompt, and comprehensive examination of the Jussie  
2 Smollett case and the decision by the Office of the Cook County  
3 State's Attorney not to pursue charges against Jussie Smollett;  
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the results of this examination be fully  
6 reported as a public document, so as to answer the unanswered  
7 questions surrounding the Jussie Smollett incident; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to  
10 Kwame Raoul, the Attorney General of the State of Illinois.