



HR0695

LRB101 16773 LAW 66166 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Healthy families are vital to the success of our
3 children and, ultimately, our nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Nationally, African American children are almost
5 twice as likely as white children to have their well-being
6 investigated by child protective services; and

7 WHEREAS, African American women and their children have
8 long been overrepresented in the child welfare system, and
9 while African American children represent 15 percent of the
10 nation's children, they account for 45 percent of the foster
11 care population and are four times as likely as white children
12 to be in foster care; and

13 WHEREAS, As a percentage of the general population, African
14 American children are five times more likely than Caucasian
15 children to be in out-of-home care and are nearly twice as
16 likely to enter care for "parent reasons", and African American
17 families are more likely to be reported for neglect; and

18 WHEREAS, In Minnesota alone, African American children are
19 16.3 times as likely as Caucasian children to be placed out of
20 home during a child protection assessment; and

1 WHEREAS, We believe that it is best to protect the best
2 interests of African American children and to promote the
3 stability and security of African American families to prevent
4 arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American children
5 from their families; and

6 WHEREAS, The creation of an African American Child Welfare
7 Advisory Council in our State would work to address disparities
8 at major decision points, while providing oversight and
9 accountability to the child protection workforce; and

10 WHEREAS, It is necessary to protect children and strengthen
11 families, reduce the overall cost of child welfare services and
12 out of home placement, reduce law enforcement and judicial
13 system costs for intervention, improve the mental health and
14 social function of African American children, and improve the
15 child protection department's efficacy; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, That
18 we encourage State policymakers to increase their awareness of
19 the statistics surrounding the treatment of African American
20 children and families in our existing institutions, to enact
21 legislation to protect African American children and allow them
22 to stay in safe home environments, and to work to reduce
23 unnecessary government intervention into their homes and

1 disruptions of their family unit; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the President of the United States, the Vice President of the
4 United States, members of the United States House of
5 Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal
6 and state government officials and agencies as appropriate.