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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Gang violence throughout the State of Illinois is
3 a threat to the public safety and the well-being of its
4 citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Streetgang Terrorism Omnibus
6 Prevention Act defines "gang" as any combination,
7 confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding,
8 or other similar conjoining, in law or in fact, of three or
9 more persons with an established hierarchy that through its
10 membership or through the agency of any member engages in a
11 course or pattern of criminal activity and are not
12 constitutionally protected; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a responsibility to
14 ensure that every family is safe from harm's way, especially
15 when our court system has extensive records of previous
16 convictions, violations, and offenses from suspected gang
17 members; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown
19 attributes the recent data from the Federal Bureau of
20 Investigation that shows homicides in Chicago increased 56%
21 from 2019 to 2020 to gangs fighting over turf; and

1 WHEREAS, Gang activity extends beyond the City of Chicago,
2 with several hundred gangs operating in Illinois, affecting
3 the well-being and safety of citizens in the entire state; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt
5 Organizations Act (RICO) allows for federal prosecution and
6 civil penalties for racketeering activity performed as part of
7 an ongoing criminal enterprise, including, but not limited to,
8 kidnapping, bribery, murder, money laundering, and drug
9 trafficking; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2012, Illinois passed the Illinois Street Gang
11 and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Law
12 (Illinois RICO) to empower local and state officials to
13 prosecute gang members and charge them as members of criminal
14 organizations; and

15 WHEREAS, Gang activity often involves the racketeering
16 activity that the federal RICO law and Illinois RICO are
17 designed to combat; and

18 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to aggressively protect
19 Illinois families from gang activity, their racketeering
20 efforts, and the violence that their behavior breeds from
21 Chicago to Cairo, from Rockford to Champaign, and from the
22 Metro East to Bourbonnais; and

1 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the citizens of
2 Illinois to target and prosecute gang activity to the full
3 extent of the law because gang activity increases violence and
4 crime across the state; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we urge the Illinois State's Attorneys to prosecute gang
8 activity under Illinois RICO across the entirety of Illinois.