



HR0500

LRB102 20708 ECR 29586 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The people of Haiti have demonstrated resilience throughout history and have fought on the front lines for freedom and human dignity; and

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WHEREAS, Haiti was the first nation in the world to abolish slavery and the slave trade after the Haitian Revolution; this acted as a beacon for Africans and people of African descent who were enslaved in racial chattel slavery around the world; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout history, the United States and France have acted to undermine the freedom of the Haitian people and to prevent economic self-determination and have looted the wealth of Haitians; this has undermined the ability of Haitians to build a stable political and economic system; and

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WHEREAS, The recent assassination of the president of Haiti has caused further economic, political, and social instability; and

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WHEREAS, An unstable economic and political system in Haiti has caused the government of Haiti to be unable to respond to natural disasters in a manner that provides relief, rebuilding, and reinvestment; and

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1 WHEREAS, Many Haitians have come to view the United States
2 as a compassionate nation that can help them realize freedom,
3 self-determination, and economic success in the modern world;
4 this belief exists despite the historical treatment of Haitian
5 people by the U.S. government and despite the failures,
6 current and historical, in the treatment of African Americans,
7 Black Americans, and other people of African descent in the
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Recently, brave groups of Haitian people sought
10 refuge in the United States in order to build a better life;
11 these brave groups were treated in an unfair, undignified, and
12 inhumane manner by some members of the Border Patrol,
13 including being charged on horseback, having the reins of
14 horses used as lashes and whips against them, and being
15 shouted at with demeaning and xenophobic language; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we condemn the actions of the members of the U.S. Border Patrol
20 who treated Haitian migrants and refugees with disrespect and
21 in an inhumane manner; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we condemn United States policies that have

1 undermined the people of Haiti and their ability to build a
2 stable economic and political system and have helped cause
3 thousands of Haitian people to look elsewhere for a better
4 life; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge President Biden and the United
6 States Congress to adopt a compassionate and humane
7 immigration system that respects the dignity and value of each
8 human life, including the Haitian people who wish to make a
9 life in the United States; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 delivered to President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala
12 Harris, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate President
13 Chuck Schumer, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
14 delegation.