



HR0620

LRB102 24804 ECR 34049 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to 2018 Census estimates, in Atlanta's
3 Old Fourth Ward, the neighborhood where Martin Luther King Jr.
4 grew up and later preached, 37 percent of Black children live
5 in poverty while no white children do; and

6 WHEREAS, As the Old Fourth Ward has quickly gentrified
7 over the last two decades, nearly half of the remaining Black
8 households are living on less than \$25,000 a year; and

9 WHEREAS, This trend of disproportional poverty among
10 racial lines along with gentrification is happening across the
11 country; and

12 WHEREAS, In Georgia, Black women make 63 cents for every
13 dollar that white men make; and

14 WHEREAS, Later this year, the Old Fourth Ward will become
15 home to one of the largest guaranteed income experiments in
16 the U.S. and the largest to ever specifically focus on Black
17 women; and

18 WHEREAS, The GRO Fund is partnering with GiveDirectly, a
19 nonprofit that has been giving unconditional cash transfers to
20 people living in poverty for a decade, to run the program,

1 which will later expand to predominantly Black suburban and
2 rural areas in Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, The In Her Hands program plans to enroll 650
4 Black women who will be randomly divided into two groups, one
5 getting \$850 a month for two years and the other receiving an
6 upfront payment of \$4,300, followed by recurring \$700 monthly
7 payments; and

8 WHEREAS, The new program will test whether it is more
9 helpful to give a larger sum of cash initially rather than a
10 monthly payment alone; and

11 WHEREAS, When the program expands to rural parts of
12 Georgia, it will also help organizations understand the value
13 of cash transfers in another setting, since most programs in
14 the U.S. have happened in cities so far; and

15 WHEREAS, The lessons from the project could help inform
16 better policy, support a redesigned social safety net, and
17 help make the case for a federal guaranteed income program;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, There is ample evidence that giving out cash,
20 with no strings attached, can be transformative; and

1 WHEREAS, In a village in Kenya, the first place that
2 GiveDirectly worked, recipients have used the money to pay for
3 food and healthcare, to start businesses, and to let their
4 children attend school instead of working; and

5 WHEREAS, In Houston, the nonprofit distributed prepaid
6 debit cards after Hurricane Harvey; this is arguably the most
7 efficient way to make sure that people get what they actually
8 need following a disaster, rather than the usual model of
9 handing out donations of clothing or laptops that may or may
10 not be useful; and

11 WHEREAS, In Stockton, California, one of a handful of
12 cities that have tried a basic income experiment for
13 low-income residents, recipients spent money on basic needs
14 like food and utilities and, unsurprisingly, experienced more
15 stability in their lives; more people were able to work or
16 become involved in their communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Having a predictable flow of money not only helps
18 people living near the poverty line with day-to-day needs but
19 also provides stability when faced with surprise financial
20 costs, such as medical bills; and

21 WHEREAS, In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book Where
22 Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?, he wrote "The solution

1 to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed
2 measure: the guaranteed income"; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we support the creation of a guaranteed income pilot program
6 for women at or below the poverty line in the communities of
7 East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this guaranteed pilot program should be
9 funded by the Department of Human Services through cannabis
10 revenue; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 delivered to the Department of Human Services.