



HR0079

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor Black women, their
4 accomplishments, and their contributions to the history of the
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Black women have shaped and molded U.S. history
7 in innumerable and irrefutable ways, from the moment they
8 arrived by means of the Middle Passage as slave labor to their
9 arrival in the White House as the vice president of the United
10 States; and

11 WHEREAS, Even in the face of unimaginable racism rooted in
12 our violent origins in America, and continued for over 400
13 years, Black women have risen above their circumstances in the
14 face of adversity, not just to survive but also to thrive,
15 imagine, create, achieve, inspire, and excel; and

16 WHEREAS, Black women have been the bedrock of the
17 community, the foundation of the family, the cornerstone of
18 the Black church, the innovator, the explorer, the
19 entrepreneur, and so much more; and

20 WHEREAS, Instead of accepting discrimination as their
21 reality, Black women have instead built, created, developed,

1 implemented, spearheaded, and maintained guilds, sororities,
2 non-profit organizations, clubs, scholarship foundations,
3 medical associations, and philanthropic affiliations that have
4 uplifted, improved, inspired, and supported multitudes of
5 communities with diverse needs; and

6 WHEREAS, It is time to celebrate "Mama" and the ancestors
7 who taught Black women to be strong, resourceful, and to do
8 good for the greater good; and

9 WHEREAS, Black women nurture, guide, mentor, and inspire
10 as they rise to unimaginable heights, overcoming intentional
11 and systemic barriers; as Black women soar, communities are
12 uplifted, and we all benefit; and

13 WHEREAS, Black women have excelled in all areas of life,
14 including but not limited to journalism, education, medicine,
15 art, law and government, and business; this is exemplified in
16 the lives of Black women who hail from the State of Illinois,
17 such as Dr. Carol Adams, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Rev. Willie
18 Barrow, United States Ambassador and Senator Carol Moseley
19 Braun, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Burroughs, Bessie Coleman,
20 Rev. Johnnie Coleman, Marva Collins, Lorraine Hansbury, Vivian
21 Harsh, Jennifer Hudson, Mahalia Jackson, Mae Jemison, Jackie
22 Joyner-Kersey, Chaka Khan, Annie Turnbo Malone, Mamie Till
23 Mobley, Diane Nash, Michelle Obama, Shonda Rhimes, Georgiana

1 Simpson, Jacqueline Vaughn, and Oprah Winfrey; and

2 WHEREAS, Black women have stood in solidarity with women
3 and men of all backgrounds, sexual orientations, races,
4 religious affiliations, and ethnicities across Illinois, the
5 United States, and the world in an effort to demand parity and
6 equity of all human beings in all areas of life; and

7 WHEREAS, February 28th intentionally connects the
8 nationally recognized months of February with Black History
9 Month and March with Women's History Month, uplifting the
10 unique intersectionality of race and gender of being both
11 Black and a woman; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we declare February 28, 2023 as Black Women's History Day in
15 the State of Illinois to honor the accomplishments, power,
16 beauty, courage, intelligence, ingenuity, stewardship, and
17 leadership of Black women; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage all Illinoisans and their
19 families to acknowledge, in word and in deed, the
20 accomplishments of Black women in places where they live,
21 work, and play, because doing so recognizes Black women's
22 history as American history.