



HR0292

LRB103 32376 LAW 61790 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Eighth Pan-African Congress Part 1 (8PAC1) is scheduled to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 2023, and it will focus on the issues of a comprehensive diaspora citizen plan, the prospect of equal status within the African Union (AU) for the AU's 6th Region (the Diaspora), and the establishment of a headquarters for the 6th Region; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois can be said to be home to the spirit of Pan-Africanism and modern repatriation to Africa with citizenship; and

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WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, a former Illinois Congressman, proposed a voluntary repatriation program that was passed by the U.S. Congress in separate acts in 1862; on July 16 of that year, an appropriation of an additional \$500,000, or \$15.8 million in 2021, was to be used in securing the right of return of free persons to the African continent; and

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WHEREAS, In 1893, the Chicago Congress on Africa was held, which was attended by people of African heritage and lineage from both sides of the Atlantic and combined the intellectual with the ideological, religious, philosophical, and scientific to discuss the status of the global African population and

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1 formulate an agenda facilitating policy for continental and
2 diasporic Africans; the Chicago Congress led to the Atlanta
3 Congress on Africa in 1895 and to the First Pan-African
4 Congress in London, England five years later; and

5 WHEREAS, The First Pan-African Congress was organized in
6 London by West Indian barrister Sylvester Williams in 1900,
7 and the event featured notable African American historian
8 W.E.B. Du Bois, Ph.D.; in addition, the event's preparatory
9 meeting was attended by educator and author Booker T.
10 Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Du Bois went on to organize the next four
12 congresses, which were Paris in 1919, London and Brussels in
13 1921, London and Lisbon in 1923, and New York in 1927; and

14 WHEREAS, The Great Depression paused the Pan-African
15 Congress (PAC) from being held; the event resumed with the
16 Fifth PAC in Manchester, England in 1945, and the subsequent
17 PACs held were the Sixth PAC in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in
18 1974, the Seventh PAC in Kampala, Uganda in 1994, and the
19 Eighth PAC in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2014; and

20 WHEREAS, Although the occurrences of PACs have been
21 irregular and spontaneous, they have been the yardstick and
22 the benchmark of the African agenda for Africans, both within

1 and without the African continent, and on the basis of mutual
2 respect and cooperation towards African unity; through the PAC
3 series, the ideal of a global humanity where African people
4 are free and independent and protected from the scourges of
5 exploitation, cultural hegemony, and anti-Africanness can be
6 implemented; and

7 WHEREAS, The importance of engaging in positive
8 relationships with African nations and the subsequent
9 convening of the 8PAC1 represents the highest expression of
10 the African-American and African liberation ideal; and

11 WHEREAS, Previous PACs have contributed to practical
12 manifestations of the Pan-African project, giving way to the
13 Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Community of
14 West African States (ECOWAS), the Lagos Plan of Action, the
15 Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC),
16 and the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), all of which have led to
17 greater developments in democracy throughout the African
18 continent; and

19 WHEREAS, The nation's first municipally-funded reparations
20 legislation for Black residents was achieved in Illinois by
21 Robin Rue Simmons, former 5th Ward alderperson of the City of
22 Evanston; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations
2 in America (NCOBRA) is the longest running, active
3 organization championing the cause of reparations in the U.S.;
4 the organization's national co-chair was previously Kamm
5 Howard, an Illinois resident, who held the position from 2017
6 to 2022, and whose involvement resulted in the City of Chicago
7 Subcommittee on Reparations, making Illinois home to the first
8 and second cities in America to establish a local governmental
9 body to redress past harms against its Black citizens; Howard
10 was also the primary writer of the first iteration of the
11 Illinois African Descent Citizens Reparations Commission bill;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Siphwe Baleka serves as coordinator of the
14 8PAC1, which was called by H.E. Ambassador Arikana
15 Chihombori-Quao, M.D., founder and president of the African
16 Diaspora Development Institute (ADDI); Baleka was born in
17 Montgomery, Illinois and graduated from Oswego Community High
18 School, and he has repatriated to his ancestral homeland of
19 Guinea Bissau, becoming the first naturalized citizen under
20 the country's Decade of Return Initiative; and

21 WHEREAS, Additionally of note is the fact that Robin Rue
22 Simmons, Kamm Howard, and Siphwe Baleka have all taken
23 African ancestry DNA tests and discovered they are each
24 descendants of the Balanta people of Guinea Bissau; they

1 subsequently traveled together to their ancestral homeland to
2 launch the country's Decade of Return Initiative in 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, The spirit emanating from Illinois initiated both
4 the first and latest PACs, and it has championed the recent
5 Reparations movement's calls for further action; therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we declare that the State of Illinois should take the lead on
10 issues of Pan-Africanism, citizenship in Africa, and
11 reparatory justice, and the State should additionally champion
12 the Eighth Pan-African Congress Part 1 (8PAC1) and its agenda
13 to develop a continental-wide diaspora citizenship plan,
14 establish the African Diaspora as the 6th Region of the
15 African Union (AU), and determine a permanent headquarters for
16 the 6th Region; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we call upon the State of Illinois to
18 immediately, through its African Descent-Citizens Reparations
19 Commission (ADCRC), provide matrilineal and patrilineal DNA
20 testing through African ancestry to determine the ancestral
21 lineages and territories of origin of its Black residents so
22 that they can seek citizenship in their ancestral homelands,
23 if so desired; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we call upon the State of Illinois to
2 become the first state to conduct a repatriation census in
3 preparation for honoring President Abraham Lincoln's desire
4 for voluntary repatriation with compensation; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That we call upon the State of Illinois to make
7 conducting the repatriation census its immediate priority.