



HR0355

LRB103 32948 MST 62752 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since 2013, Illinois Black student enrollment in
3 higher education has declined nearly 40%, and nationally,
4 Black student freshman enrollment has fallen nearly 18%; and

5 WHEREAS, At Illinois' flagship University of Illinois, the
6 Black student enrollment has declined annually since 1997, and
7 the current numbers of Black students are at an all time low;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Many of the other higher education institutions
10 in Illinois and across the country have experienced severe
11 declines in Black student enrollment; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities populated by individuals with some
13 college experience and higher education completion enjoy
14 higher average household incomes, low unemployment, strong
15 homeownership, reduced crime, and overall community stability;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Many Black communities in Illinois and the nation
18 now suffer from low average incomes, low homeownership, high
19 crime, and instability; the current trend of declining Black
20 student enrollment will exacerbate the current challenging
21 situation and eventually decimate the Black community; and

1 WHEREAS, Student enrollment in higher education has
2 increased among other minority groups at Illinois
3 institutions, while Black student enrollment is steadily
4 declining; and

5 WHEREAS, False anti-higher education propaganda has
6 effectively infiltrated the Black community, masking the
7 benefits of higher education for developing young minds,
8 developing friendship, networking, and providing critical
9 information; and

10 WHEREAS, Jobs and careers in technology, the medical
11 field, and other industries continue to go unfilled while
12 affordable training and education for those careers are
13 available; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we declare a Black student enrollment crisis in the State of
17 Illinois until enrollment at our flagship University of
18 Illinois and all other Illinois higher education institutions
19 reach a suitable number of Black enrolled students; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinois higher education

1 institutions to immediately establish an office or department
2 with ample personnel to specifically and aggressively work in
3 the area of Black student recruitment, immediate enrollment,
4 and scholarships; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor to utilize his
6 executive powers to immediately direct funds toward emergency
7 enrollment outreach and completion programs for Black student
8 enrollment increases at Illinois higher education
9 institutions.