



HR0240

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Illinois Board of Higher Education's reports  
3 on college and university enrollment indicate an alarming  
4 scarcity of male students of African-American descent  
5 currently enrolled and pursuing post-secondary education; and

6           WHEREAS, This scarcity makes African-American males, far  
7 and away, the least represented demographic group on college  
8 and university campuses, both in number and in percentage of  
9 total Illinois population; and

10           WHEREAS, It is widely recognized that attainment of  
11 post-secondary education is a clear indicator of increased  
12 earning potential and employment stability, and decreased  
13 likelihood of criminal activity and incarceration; and

14           WHEREAS, Several organizations and institutions, including  
15 the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education,  
16 Chicago State University, the University of Illinois at  
17 Chicago, the Chicago Urban League, the City Colleges of  
18 Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, the Brother 2 Brother  
19 Program of the South Metropolitan Regional Education  
20 Consortium, the Illinois Task Force on the Condition of the  
21 African American Male, and Macy's Department Stores have formed  
22 a working coalition to examine and promote increased support of

1 African American males in higher education; and

2 WHEREAS, This coalition has planned several events and  
3 activities during the month of April of 2009 to study those  
4 factors contributing to low participation and success of  
5 African-American Males in higher education, and to provide  
6 resources to improve the success and persistence of current  
7 African-American male students; and

8 WHEREAS, This legislative body recognizes the importance  
9 of increasing the success and persistence of African-American  
10 male students to the entire State of Illinois, particularly to  
11 the State's welfare and economy; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 the month of April, 2009 be recognized as the Month of the  
15 African-American Male in Illinois Higher Education; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That this body congratulates the above mentioned  
18 coalition for its efforts in raising the public's awareness of  
19 lower than acceptable enrollment and success rates for  
20 African-American males on college and university campuses, for  
21 examining potential barriers to African-American male student  
22 success, for exploring best practices for increasing

1 African-American male success and participation, and for  
2 providing resources and support to currently enrolled  
3 African-American male students.