



HR1003

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has the highest youth homicide
3 rate in the country; homicide is the 2nd leading cause of death
4 for youths age 14 to 24; and

5 WHEREAS, Homicide rates for African-American males are 3
6 times higher than those for Latino males and 25 times higher
7 than those for Caucasian males; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1996, a resolution from the World Health
9 Assembly declared violence to be a leading public health
10 problem; and

11 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization developed a
12 typology of violence that identified 3 categories:
13 self-directed violence (by oneself), interpersonal violence
14 (by another person), and collective violence (by larger
15 groups); collective violence includes hate crimes, terrorist
16 acts, and mob violence committed to advance a particular social
17 agenda; and

18 WHEREAS, Violence exacts both a human and an economic toll
19 on nations, and costs economies many billions of U.S. dollars
20 each year in healthcare costs, legal costs, absenteeism from
21 work, and lost productivity; the total direct and indirect

1 costs, including cost for healthcare services, autopsies,
2 police investigations, and lost productivity resulting from
3 premature death, amount to nearly U.S. \$80 million; and

4 WHEREAS, Violence is the result of the complex interplay of
5 individual, relationships, social, cultural, and environmental
6 factors, and is the product of multiple levels of influence on
7 behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, There are biological and personal history factors
9 that increase the likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator
10 of violence; those factors include impulsivity, low
11 educational attainment, substance abuse, and prior history of
12 abuse and aggression; and

13 WHEREAS, Research shows that people are much more likely to
14 engage in negative activities when those behaviors are
15 encouraged and approved by friends, peers, intimate partners,
16 and family members who all have the potential to shape an
17 individual's behavior and range of experience; and

18 WHEREAS, Research shows that opportunities for violence
19 are greater in areas of poverty or physical deterioration or
20 where there are few institutional supports, such as those
21 provided by places of worship; and

1 WHEREAS, There are cultural norms that support violence as
2 an acceptable way to resolve conflicts, norms that give
3 priority to parental rights over child welfare, norms that
4 entrench male dominance over women and children, norms that
5 support the use of excessive force by police against citizens,
6 and norms that support political conflict; and

7 WHEREAS, There are health, educational, economic, and
8 social policies that maintain high levels of economic and
9 social inequalities between groups that contribute to high
10 levels of violence; and

11 WHEREAS, There are 3 levels of public health violence
12 prevention: primary prevention, which aims to prevent violence
13 before it occurs; secondary prevention, which focuses on
14 immediate responses to violence, such as pre-hospital care,
15 emergency services, or treatment; and tertiary prevention,
16 which focuses on rehabilitation, reintegration, and reducing
17 long-term emotional or physical disabilities relevant to
18 perpetrators of violence; and

19 WHEREAS, Public health strategies for the prevention of
20 violence focus on specific target groups, such as universal
21 interventions, which are programs such as community-wide media
22 campaigns that are aimed at general populations; selected
23 interventions, which are aimed at high-risk individual

1 populations; and indicated interventions, which are aimed at
2 perpetrators of violence; and

3 WHEREAS, A comprehensive response to violence is one that
4 protects and supports victims of violence, reduces the
5 perpetration of violence, and changes the circumstances and
6 conditions that give rise to violence in the first place; and

7 WHEREAS, Faith and community-based organizations provide
8 critical leadership, knowledge, and passion when it comes to
9 preventing and intervening in cycles of youth violence around
10 the country; and

11 WHEREAS, All throughout the country, faith and non-profit
12 organizations have taken on many tasks in order to keep young
13 people safe and increase positive opportunities for young
14 people; and

15 WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers from churches, mosques,
16 synagogues, and community centers mentor children, counsel
17 parents, teach classes, serve meals, conduct neighborhood
18 clean-ups, conduct home visits, and work with law enforcement
19 to patrol the streets; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we encourage faith-based organizations to develop and
2 implement universal interventions aimed to prevent violence in
3 Illinois' impoverished, underserved, and at-risk communities
4 by providing employment opportunities, media, and educational
5 campaigns, after school programs, mentoring programs, and
6 other activities that replace negative messages, activities,
7 beliefs, and attitudes with positive and productive
8 activities, beliefs, and messages, through a transparent and
9 collaborative process with the community that takes full
10 advantage of State and federal funding resources.