



HR1011 Enrolled

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 1011

2 WHEREAS, The import, trade, and labor of slaves in America
3 is a sad chapter in the history of a nation founded upon the
4 principles of freedom, equality, and justice; and

5 WHEREAS, The use of slave labor undoubtedly led to profits
6 for those who used them for manual labor; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to labor benefits, the owners of
8 slaves benefited from selling them to the highest bidder, often
9 separating families permanently; and

10 WHEREAS, The trading, sale, and transportation of slaves,
11 was an industry in itself; and

12 WHEREAS, During their enslavement, to increase their value
13 and extend their working lives, slaves received consistent
14 health care and treatment for illness and injuries; and

15 WHEREAS, After Emancipation and well into the century
16 afterwards, African Americans were often denied employment, or
17 paid less than whites for the same work; denied housing or
18 forced to pay more for housing than whites; denied the same
19 educational opportunities as whites; denied their right to vote
20 by the use of literacy tests and poll taxes; and

1 WHEREAS, After Emancipation, with little education,
2 employment, adequate housing, and health care, the life
3 expectancy of African Americans dropped significantly; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the course of our nation's history, many
5 groups that have been wronged by the government have received
6 reparations for those wrongs, including Japanese Americans,
7 Mexican Americans, Filipino Americans, and Native Americans;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In 2008, the United States House of
10 Representatives passed a non-binding resolution apologizing
11 for slavery and acknowledging the "injustice, cruelty,
12 brutality and inhumanity" of slavery; and in 2009 the United
13 States Senate passed a similar resolution of apology; and

14 WHEREAS, The United Nations Working Group of Experts on
15 People of African Descent has recently released a report
16 recommending that reparations be paid to the descendants of
17 African American slaves, and also recommending the
18 establishment of a national human rights commission, and to
19 publicly acknowledge that the trans-Atlantic slave trade was a
20 crime against humanity; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, That we
2 request President Obama to commission a study to detail the
3 economic impact of the slave trade and the use of slave labor;
4 and how Emancipation, while freeing them of their literal
5 bonds, and ending an immoral practice, did not guarantee
6 equality in education, employment, housing, and access to
7 quality affordable health care; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this study also include an analysis for how
9 reparations for past harms have benefited the ethnic groups
10 that have received them during the course of American history;
11 and, if recommended in the study, a proposal for reparations to
12 the descendants of slaves in America, and how those reparations
13 can help overcome obstacles that still exist today in
14 education, employment, housing, health care, and justice; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to President Obama.