



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In November of 2005, the U.S. Department of
3 Justice notified Southern Illinois University (SIU) that it
4 intended to file a lawsuit against the university related to
5 three of the university's fellowship programs, specifically,
6 the PROMPT, BRIDGE, and GRADUATE DEANS programs; and

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice has alleged that
8 SIU is in violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
9 in its administration of these programs; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, African Americans and Hispanic-Latinos are
11 underrepresented in all graduate programs; the subject matter
12 programs at issue have provided access to graduate programs for
13 approximately 85 minority students; and

14 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice and SIU have
15 negotiated a Consent Decree that protects the students
16 currently enrolled in these programs; in addition, the Consent
17 Decree avoids the cost of protracted litigation, with no
18 penalties or fines assessed against SIU, and amends the
19 eligibility requirements of three SIU-C paid fellowship
20 programs; the Consent Decree also allows SIU to avoid potential
21 legal exposure and financial penalty; and

22 WHEREAS, Both the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and the
23 Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus desire to be updated,
24 annually, on SIU's progress in minority participation in its
25 fellowship programs; both Caucuses have met with the President
26 of SIU and have expressed their grave concerns related to the
27 inclusion of African American and Hispanic-Latino students in
28 the university's fellowship programs, as well as other facets
29 of the university; and

30 WHEREAS, The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and the

1 Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus have both indicated their
2 desire to stay informed of the events surrounding the
3 investigations conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice and
4 the progress that SIU is making in increasing the number of
5 African American and Hispanic-Latino students in both
6 fellowship and graduate assistance programs; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
9 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that Southern Illinois University
10 provide, on an annual basis, an update on minority
11 participation in all fellowship and graduate assistance
12 programs at SIU to the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and
13 the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the President and the Board of Trustees of
15 Southern Illinois University take the necessary steps to ensure
16 that African Americans and Hispanic-Latinos are provided
17 access to and are allowed to compete in all fellowship and
18 graduate assistance programs; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the President and the Board of Trustees of
20 Southern Illinois University take the necessary steps to ensure
21 that the university establishes and maintains an environment
22 that is conducive to the successful completion of these
23 programs as well as supports the efforts of African American
24 and Hispanic-Latino students in the same or similar manner as
25 it supports all other students; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
27 delivered to the President of Southern Illinois University and
28 the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University.