



HR0365

LRB098 12123 MST 45989 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, During the Japanese colonial and wartime
3 expansion of Asia and the Pacific Islands from 1932 through the
4 duration of World War II, approximately 200,000 women and girls
5 were coerced into a system of forced military prostitution; and

6 WHEREAS, The term "comfort women" was a euphemism used by
7 the Japanese government to describe women and girls forced into
8 sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese military at camps,
9 known as "comfort stations"; and

10 WHEREAS, The majority of "comfort women" were of Korean or
11 Chinese descent, but women from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia,
12 Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, and the Netherlands were
13 also interned in military camps run directly by the Imperial
14 Japanese military or private agents working for the military;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Some of the women were sold to these military
17 camps as minors, others were deceptively recruited by middlemen
18 with the promise of employment and financial security, and
19 still others were forcibly kidnapped and forced to become
20 "sexual slaves" for soldiers stationed throughout the Japanese
21 occupied territories; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately three-quarters of the "comfort
2 women" have died as a direct result of the brutality inflicted
3 on them during their internment; some of those who survived
4 were left infertile due to sexual violence or sexually
5 transmitted diseases and many are now dying without an official
6 acknowledgement or apology by the Japanese government of the
7 suffering they endured during their forced internment in
8 military comfort stations; and

9 WHEREAS, The stories of the "comfort women" are an
10 essential part of the history of human trafficking; and

11 WHEREAS, The United Nations reports that 2.4 million people
12 across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one
13 time, and 80 percent of them are being exploited as sexual
14 slaves; and

15 WHEREAS, At least 16,000 women and girls are involved in
16 the sex trade every year in Chicago, many of whom are victims
17 of human trafficking; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois stands against human
19 trafficking in all its forms, as evidenced by the 2005
20 formation of the Illinois Rescue and Restore Coalition, a
21 partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services
22 and the federal government to combat labor and sex trafficking

1 in Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois further showed its
3 commitment to fighting human trafficking when this year the
4 Illinois House of Representatives passed House Bill 2640, which
5 creates a process for trafficking victims to receive financial
6 assistance to remove "trafficking tattoos" that traffickers
7 often use to brand their victims as their property; and

8 WHEREAS, It is fitting for this House to support H.R. 121
9 passed by the United States House of Representatives that
10 called upon the Japanese government to accept historical
11 responsibility for the sexual enslavement of "comfort women" by
12 the Imperial Japanese Army and educate future generations about
13 these crimes; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, That
16 we recognize and support "comfort women" by acknowledging as
17 historical fact the suffering they endured during their forced
18 internment in Japanese military comfort stations; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinois educators to share with
21 students of an appropriate age the story of "comfort women"
22 when discussing the history of Asia or World War II, or the

1 issue of human trafficking; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we further commit to exploring ways to
3 develop an Asian American social science and history curriculum
4 for public schools that would provide one centralized structure
5 the shared history of events, such as the story of "comfort
6 women" or the forced incarceration of Japanese-Americans
7 during World War II, along with many other examples of Asian
8 American experiences in the United States; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our commitment to ending all
10 forms of violence and trafficking of women in the State of
11 Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to the executive directors of the Korean American
14 Resource & Cultural Center, Korean American Voter Organizing
15 Initiative & Community Empowerment, Korean American Women in
16 Need, the Japanese American Service Committee, the Cambodian
17 Association of Illinois, and Asian Americans Advancing
18 Justice-Chicago.