



HR0830

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and the nation at large has
3 seen a horrid outbreak of gun violence, seen daily on the
4 streets of Chicago and other major cities and tragically
5 spotlight in Tucson, Arizona, Denver, Colorado, Sandy Hook,
6 Connecticut, Roanoke, Virginia, and Roseburg, Oregon; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of the major cities of our State and
8 our nation see killings on the order of these highly publicized
9 mass murders on a regular basis; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, there are enough privately owned guns in
11 the United States of America to arm every man, woman, and
12 child; and

13 WHEREAS, The fallout of the Great Recession of 2008 is
14 still being felt in many parts of this country, where there are
15 foreclosed homes and businesses, abandoned properties and
16 vacant lots, and a desperate need for economic development; and

17 WHEREAS, In Illinois, we see high levels of unemployment
18 and broad declines in healthcare, deteriorating
19 infrastructure, and shrinking pensions and retirement savings
20 as workers in all fields of education, healthcare, and public
21 safety are laid off as a result of a financial crisis they did

1 not create; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1967, the report of the Kerner Commission
3 stated that "To pursue our present course will involve the
4 continuing polarization of the American community and,
5 ultimately, the destruction of basic democratic values. The
6 alternative is not blind repression or capitulation to
7 lawlessness. It is the realization of common opportunities for
8 all within a single society"; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 1980, cities, states, and the nation have
10 asked our citizens to Just Say No, recognize A Thousand Points
11 of Light, and pass Three Strike laws and have preached Zero
12 Tolerance, but the violence continues unabated; and

13 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has seen a year of gun
14 violence among the worst in the history of the City, with 400
15 people killed, a 15% increase over the previous year; on
16 average, a person is shot every 2.8 hours; and

17 WHEREAS, Unemployment in the neighborhoods of Chicago and
18 other inner cities is at 30% or higher, with limited economic
19 opportunities and underserved, overcrowded, and
20 technologically outdated schools; and

21 WHEREAS, As a State, we need to find new strategies and

1 tactics and come up with solutions that protect our citizens
2 from the scourge of gun violence, recognizing that enacting the
3 same policies that we have passed the last half century and
4 expecting different results is, by definition, insanity;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 urge President Barack Obama to call for a national conference
9 on gun violence to be held by the end of 2015 in Chicago, with
10 participants that include, but are not limited to, the United
11 States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of
12 Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the
13 Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban
14 Development, the Department of Education, leaders of the
15 private sector, elected officials at the city and state levels,
16 members of our law enforcement community, and citizens who are
17 organizing in their communities; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 delivered to the President.