



HR0517

LRB104 15837 MST 29049 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the National Urban League on its 115 years of service empowering African Americans and other underserved communities while helping foster a more just, equitable, and inclusive nation; and

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WHEREAS, The National Urban League, founded in 1910, is a nonpartisan, historic social service and civil rights organization based in New York City that is dedicated to economic empowerment, equality, and social justice for African Americans and other historically underserved groups; and

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WHEREAS, The National Urban League was founded as a multiracial, diverse grassroots campaign by Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Haynes; and

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WHEREAS, Eight leaders have been at the helm of the National Urban League during its 110-year history, including George Edmund Haynes (1910-1918), Eugene Kinckle Jones (1918-1941), Lester B. Granger (1941-1961), Whitney M. Young Jr. (1961-1971), Vernon E. Jordan Jr. (1971-1981), John E. Jacob (1982-1994), Hugh B. Price (1994-2003), and Marc H. Morial (2003-Present); and

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1 WHEREAS, These eight leaders were strengthened by an
2 interracial board of trustees comprised of key figures from
3 American businesses and labor unions as well as community
4 organizations and religious and academic institutions; and

5 WHEREAS, The National Urban League is the oldest and
6 largest community-based organization of its kind in the
7 nation, providing direct services in the areas of education,
8 health care, housing, jobs, and justice that improve the lives
9 of more than two million people nationwide; and

10 WHEREAS, The employees of the National Urban League's
11 headquarters help spearhead the efforts of its local
12 affiliates through the development of signature programs,
13 public policy research, and advocacy; and

14 WHEREAS, On its 115th anniversary, the National Urban
15 League can look back with great pride on its extraordinary
16 accomplishments; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Urban League's research arm was
18 established in 1921 by renowned researcher Dr. Charles S.
19 Johnson and has released numerous publications, including
20 Opportunity: Journal of Negro Life (1923-1949), State of Black
21 America (1976-present), and other pertinent studies
22 documenting and elevating social consciousness; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the National Urban League became a
2 major force in the civil rights arena, working closely with A.
3 Philip Randolph and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as many
4 other exceptional leaders to advance civil rights, voting
5 rights, and fair housing legislation; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the 1960s, the National Urban League
7 saw tremendous growth in its partnership with the federal
8 government, addressing race relations and delivering aid to
9 urban areas, as well as making improvements in housing,
10 education, health, and minority-owned businesses; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1964, the National Urban League through its
12 affiliate network helped register more than half a million
13 Black voters; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1972, the Citizenship Education department was
15 established, offering local citizenship education programs,
16 voter registration, and get out the vote campaigns, and the
17 Power of the Ballot was published and 75,000 new Black voters
18 were registered as part of a 17-city drive; and

19 WHEREAS, Since 2020, efforts to register Black voters, get
20 out the vote, and challenge voter suppression have
21 intensified; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Urban League's 90 local affiliates
2 and 11,000 volunteers located in 36 states and the District of
3 Columbia provide services across 300 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Urban League's signature programs
5 are evidence-based, data-informed and scalable, and they
6 demonstrably enhance the economic and educational status of
7 communities served; and

8 WHEREAS, Since 2004, through the National Urban League's
9 Entrepreneurship and Business Services division, the
10 Entrepreneurship Center Program has served approximately
11 185,000 minority-owned businesses, helping them to secure over
12 \$1,000,000,000 in financing, bonding capacity, and contracting
13 opportunities, and it created or saved over 170,000 full and
14 part-time jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, Since 2008, over 315,000 people have received
16 assistance through the National Urban League's Housing and
17 Community Development division, Comprehensive Housing
18 Counseling, and financial empowerment programs; the
19 foreclosure prevention initiative, Restore Our Homes, has
20 helped more than 25,000 people avoid foreclosure, and the home
21 purchase program has assisted 7,200 people become first-time
22 homeowners; and

1 WHEREAS, Since 2008, the National Urban League's Education
2 and Youth Development division's signature program, Project
3 Ready, has helped 18,000 students (grades 8-12) progress
4 academically, benefit from cultural enrichment opportunities,
5 and develop important skills, attitudes, and aptitudes that
6 position them for success during and after high school; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 2010, the Equity and Excellence Project has
8 enabled the affiliates to expand their education advocacy and
9 engagement work in cities and states across the country; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2013, the National Urban League's Workforce
11 Development Division, Rebuild America Initiative, has helped
12 over 250,000 unemployed and underemployed, including young
13 adults, reentry adults, and mature workers to secure full-time
14 employment or career advancement opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Urban League has been a national
16 leader in the fight against unfair laws, economic inequality,
17 inequity, and systemic racism and is dedicated to eradicating
18 these social and economic injustices through the development
19 of programs, authoritative public policy research, and
20 advocacy for policies and services that close equality and
21 equity gaps; and

1 WHEREAS, Through its equitable justice and democracy work,
2 the National Urban League is advocating for justice and
3 fairness for all through police reform, the removal of unjust
4 systemic barriers in the nation's criminal justice system, the
5 protection of voting rights, and the preservation of freedoms
6 to fully participate in our nation's democracy and civic
7 processes; and

8 WHEREAS, Through its 115 years of service, the National
9 Urban League has been pivotal in improving the lives of
10 millions of African Americans and other underserved
11 communities in combating poverty, achieving civil rights, and
12 gaining economic prosperity; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Urban League remains an essential
14 organization today; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate the National Urban League on its 115 years of
18 service empowering African Americans and other underserved
19 communities while helping foster a more just, equitable, and
20 inclusive nation; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we expresses our deep gratitude for the
22 hardworking and dedicated men and women of the National Urban

1 League, National Urban League Affiliates, and its auxiliaries,
2 who, for 115 years, have challenged unjust systems and broken
3 down economic and social barriers; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we commend the National Urban League's
5 ongoing and tireless efforts to continue addressing systemic
6 racism and economic inequality and fighting for the rights of
7 all Americans to live with freedom, dignity, and prosperity.