



HR0351

LRB100 12517 MST 25509 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, May 17, 2017 will be the 63rd anniversary of the
3 1954 landmark United States Supreme Court decision in Brown v.
4 Board of Education, which found that "separate educational
5 facilities are inherently unequal" and banned separate public
6 schools for black and white students; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite this landmark ruling, many schools and
8 districts throughout the United States have been alleged to
9 still be "separate" due, in part, to racially and economically
10 isolated housing patterns in many areas; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a 2013 Economic Policy Institute
12 report entitled "For Public Schools, Segregation Then,
13 Segregation Since", "[t]oday, African American students are
14 more isolated than they were 40 years ago, while most education
15 policymakers and reformers have abandoned integration as a
16 cause"; and

17 WHEREAS, A considerable body of research indicates that
18 racial and economic diversity in schools is one of the few
19 education reforms that is proven to improve the educational
20 achievement and life opportunities of minority and low-income
21 children systemically; and

1 WHEREAS, The best way to ensure that public educational
2 resources are equitably distributed among all children is to
3 allow all children access to the same resources in the same
4 schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Diverse schools promote better educational
6 outcomes and provide benefits for all students; research has
7 confirmed that African-American and Hispanic students perform
8 better on tests in schools that are diverse, while school
9 diversity has no negative impact on the test scores of white
10 students; in addition, studies have found that prolonged
11 contact with racially diverse students may have significant
12 effects on students' complex thinking, and a more diverse
13 classroom environment encourages critical thinking in all
14 students, as well as improves high school graduation and
15 college matriculation rates for minority students at those
16 schools; and

17 WHEREAS, Beyond educational benefits, diverse schools
18 provide other societal advantages, including improving
19 cross-racial understanding and reducing racial prejudice;
20 diverse schools also improve the potential for reducing
21 residential lack of diversity; and

22 WHEREAS, Diverse schools are linked to a host of positive
23 learning outcomes for white students as well, including the

1 promotion of critical thinking and problem-solving skills and
2 higher academic achievement; attending diverse schools is also
3 linked to social and psychological advantages for white
4 students, including more friendships across racial lines and
5 higher levels of cultural competence, a critical advantage in
6 the modern workplace and today's global economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Diverse schools are essential to prepare all
8 children to live and work together in a nation in which
9 African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, Pacific
10 Islanders, and other non-whites will collectively comprise the
11 majority of the United States population by 2042; therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 urge the Mayor of the City of Chicago to officially recognize
16 that these practices are hurting the City and the future of our
17 children and to recognize the importance and benefits of school
18 diversity and to set it as a priority when making decisions
19 regarding funding, transportation, admissions policies and
20 practices, creation of new schools, school rezoning, and other
21 pertinent decisions, and to commit to having a strategy in each
22 district for overcoming impediments to school diversity; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Mayor of the City of Chicago.