



HR0853

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1947, in the wake of World War II, Secretary of
3 State George C. Marshall proposed a comprehensive plan to
4 rebuild the economies and spirits of Western Europe; and

5 WHEREAS, As part of this plan, the U.S. gave \$13 billion in
6 aid to 16 European nations; this included shipping food,
7 staples, fuel, and machinery, rebuilding war-devastated
8 regions, removing trade barriers, and investing in industrial
9 capacity; and

10 WHEREAS, Due to what became known as the Marshall Plan,
11 European economies experienced unprecedented growth from 1948
12 to 1952, postwar poverty and starvation disappeared, and
13 standards of living increased remarkably; and

14 WHEREAS, Former National Urban League President John
15 Jacobs often spoke of the need for a new domestic Marshall
16 Plan, championing the idea that we could rebuild urban areas in
17 America the same way we rebuilt entire nations abroad; and

18 WHEREAS, Parts of the City of Chicago, particularly on the
19 west and south sides, suffer greatly from a lack of economic
20 opportunity; and

1 WHEREAS, A lack of opportunity has been shown to increase
2 drug abuse, unemployment, poverty, violence, and other
3 negative factors within a community; and

4 WHEREAS, African Americans in the City of Chicago are
5 disproportionately affected by both the violence and the
6 poverty in the city; African Americans make up approximately a
7 third of the city's population, yet for decades, they have
8 consistently accounted for more than 70 percent of homicide
9 victims; and

10 WHEREAS, A comprehensive economic recovery plan is
11 necessary to revitalize Chicago's impoverished areas and to
12 help elevate the city's African American population; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1967, the Kerner Commission was established
14 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to understand the root causes of
15 race riots in African American communities in the 1960s and to
16 make policy recommendations to prevent future unrest; and

17 WHEREAS, A new Marshall Plan will most likely need a
18 commission or study comparable to the Kerner Commission to
19 properly investigate the origins of the lack of economic
20 opportunity in parts of Chicago and its affect on the city's
21 black citizens and to make informed policy recommendations to
22 improve these conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to pre-existing inequalities such as
2 segregation, financial disparities, lack of access to a good
3 education, pre-existing conditions, lost wages, lost homes,
4 lost inheritances, lack of access to testing and treatment, and
5 other issues, the current COVID-19 pandemic has
6 disproportionately hurt African Americans, especially in
7 Chicago; and

8 WHEREAS, The deadly toll of the COVID-19 virus on African
9 Americans grows even starker as more data is released; as a
10 clearer picture emerges, leaders are demanding a reckoning of
11 the systemic policies that have made many African Americans far
12 more vulnerable to the virus; therefore, any study or
13 commission under a new Marshall Plan would need to include
14 research on how societal inequality has resulted in Black
15 Americans being more negatively affected by COVID-19; and

16 WHEREAS, This new Marshall Plan must provide federal,
17 state, and local tax credits and other enhancements to
18 encourage businesses to relocate to these struggling
19 communities in order to foster economic vitality; therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we urge the Illinois General Assembly and the United States
2 Congress to create and adopt a new, domestic Marshall Plan that
3 studies the roots of the economic inequality in parts of
4 Chicago and to promote economic growth and recovery in the
5 city; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
7 to Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Cook County Board President
8 Toni Preckwinkle, all members of the Chicago City Council,
9 Governor JB Pritzker, all members of the Illinois General
10 Assembly, President Donald Trump, U.S. Senate Majority Leader
11 Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer,
12 U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of
13 Representatives Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and all
14 members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.