



HR0054

LRB102 12534 ECR 17872 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born Araminta "Minty" Ross in
3 the early 1820s in Dorchester County, Maryland; she was
4 enslaved at a young age and began working the field by
5 harvesting flax at age 13; and

6 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman escaped when she was around 27
7 years old; she walked the nearly 90 miles to Philadelphia,
8 where she took jobs as a domestic and cook and spent summers
9 working in Cape May, New Jersey; and

10 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman returned to Maryland approximately
11 13 times to rescue as many as 70 enslaved people through the
12 Underground Railroad, which was a network of escape routes and
13 safe houses organized by Black and white abolitionists; she
14 claimed she never lost a passenger; she gave instructions to
15 70 others who found their own way to freedom; and

16 WHEREAS, If Harriet Tubman had been caught, she would have
17 faced physical punishment and been sold back into slavery in
18 the Deep South due to the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law; and

19 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked for
20 the Union Army as a scout, spy, guerrilla soldier, and nurse;
21 this makes her one of the first Black women to serve in the

1 military; and

2 WHEREAS, After the war, Harriet Tubman became involved in
3 the campaign for women's suffrage along with Elizabeth Cady
4 Stanton and Susan B. Anthony; in 1859, she purchased a home in
5 Auburn, New York and established it as a home for the elderly;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman died in 1913 and was buried with
8 military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2014, President Barack Obama launched the
10 effort to get Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill after receiving a
11 letter from a girl from Massachusetts saying women should
12 appear on currency; and

13 WHEREAS, In April of 2016, President Obama announced that
14 Harriet Tubman would be replacing President Andrew Jackson on
15 the \$20 and that Jackson would be moved into a scene of the
16 White House on the reverse side; and

17 WHEREAS, For years, critics have called for Jackson to be
18 removed from the \$20 bill because of his legacy of supporting
19 the institution of slavery, having owned 95 enslaved people
20 months before he became president and bringing 14 of them to
21 the White House, and for his role in the forced, violent

1 transfer of tens of thousands of Native Americans from the
2 South on what became known as the Trail of Tears; and

3 WHEREAS, The new design was initially scheduled for 2020
4 but stalled under President Trump who called the move "pure
5 political correctness" and said that Jackson "had a great
6 history"; and

7 WHEREAS, No women or people of color have ever been
8 pictured on a denomination of currency still in circulation;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we urge the federal government to replace Andrew Jackson with
13 Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
15 to President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, the
16 Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States
17 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States
18 House of Representatives, and all members of the Illinois
19 Congressional delegation.