



HR0493

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Gang violence throughout the State of Illinois is  
3 a threat to the public safety and the well-being of its  
4 citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Streetgang Terrorism Omnibus  
6 Prevention Act defines "gang" as any combination,  
7 confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding,  
8 or other similar conjoining, in law or in fact, of three or  
9 more persons with an established hierarchy that through its  
10 membership or through the agency of any member engages in a  
11 course or pattern of criminal activity and are not  
12 constitutionally protected; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a responsibility to  
14 ensure that every family is safe from harm's way, especially  
15 when our court system has extensive records of previous  
16 convictions, violations, and offenses from suspected gang  
17 members; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown  
19 attributes the recent data from the Federal Bureau of  
20 Investigation that shows homicides in Chicago increased 56%  
21 from 2019 to 2020 to gangs fighting over turf; and

1           WHEREAS, Gang activity extends beyond the City of Chicago,  
2           with several hundred gangs operating in Illinois, affecting  
3           the well-being and safety of citizens in the entire state; and

4           WHEREAS, The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt  
5           Organizations Act (RICO) allows for federal prosecution and  
6           civil penalties for racketeering activity performed as part of  
7           an ongoing criminal enterprise, including, but not limited to,  
8           kidnapping, bribery, murder, money laundering, and drug  
9           trafficking; and

10           WHEREAS, In 2012, Illinois passed the Illinois Street Gang  
11           and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Law  
12           (Illinois RICO) to empower local and state officials to  
13           prosecute gang members and charge them as members of criminal  
14           organizations; and

15           WHEREAS, Gang activity often involves the racketeering  
16           activity that the federal RICO law and Illinois RICO are  
17           designed to combat; and

18           WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to aggressively protect  
19           Illinois families from gang activity, their racketeering  
20           efforts, and the violence that their behavior breeds from  
21           Chicago to Cairo, from Rockford to Champaign, and from the  
22           Metro East to Bourbonnais; and

1           WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the citizens of  
2 Illinois to target and prosecute gang activity to the full  
3 extent of the law because gang activity increases violence and  
4 crime across the state; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we urge the Illinois State's Attorneys to prosecute gang  
8 activity under Illinois RICO across the entirety of Illinois.