



HR0301

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Municipalities throughout Illinois contain
3 neighborhoods identified as high-crime areas where law-abiding
4 citizens fear for their safety and legitimate businesses
5 abandon their endeavors; and

6 WHEREAS, State and federal resources must be made available
7 to boost local efforts to protect the people of this great
8 State; and

9 WHEREAS, Gang violence, random shootings, and blatant
10 criminal activity have harmed neighborhoods and scarred
11 families by death, permanent injury, and intimidation; and

12 WHEREAS, Nationwide attention focused on a high-crime area
13 in Illinois when videos taken outside Chicago's Fenger High
14 School in 2009 captured the tragic beating death of Derrion
15 Albert, an innocent victim of gang violence; and

16 WHEREAS, The pockets of deadly crime are often concentrated
17 as illustrated by a Chicago Police Department analysis that
18 found that in 2009 all shootings and homicides took place in
19 areas of the City which, when taken together, constitute only
20 8.5% of the geographic area of Chicago; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2010, even though the overall number of
2 homicides in Chicago was at a 45-year low, nearly 700 children
3 were shot, an average of almost 2 a day, and 66 of those young
4 people died; the majority of those deaths was gang-related; and

5 WHEREAS, Criminal gang activity is not confined to only one
6 city or only to urban areas as amply illustrated by news
7 reports within the last year from many locales around Illinois;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, According to the latest intelligence from a top
10 federal law enforcement agency in Chicago, there are at least
11 100,000 gang members distributed among 75 to 100 street gangs
12 in Chicago and the suburbs; unfortunately, this means that this
13 street gang membership is at least twice as big as Chicago and
14 suburban police departments combined; and

15 WHEREAS, If the Chicago Police Department had the benefit
16 of additional law enforcement personnel at its disposal through
17 a coordinated effort with the Illinois State Police and the
18 Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Department could effectively
19 enforce the applicable curfew and obtain immediate and
20 long-term results in high-crime areas; similarly,
21 State-county-municipal cooperation in other cities could help
22 transform high-crime neighborhoods; and

1 WHEREAS, While we realize that the federal budget problems
2 may diminish the federal resources available to help defray the
3 cost of intensive law enforcement efforts, including the
4 technology necessary for the prevention and solution of murders
5 and other violent crimes, we nonetheless urge Congress to
6 appropriate funds for grants for this purpose; we also urge the
7 Department of Homeland Security and other key federal agencies
8 to channel or repurpose existing federal resources to help
9 Illinois undertake this joint effort to attack high-crime
10 areas; certainly, effective use of law enforcement funds in the
11 present may allow savings in the judicial and correctional
12 systems in the future; and

13 WHEREAS, State agencies, such as the Department of Commerce
14 and Economic Opportunity, should recognize the role which the
15 agencies could play to combat some of the underlying causes of
16 unemployment and crime and should foster helpful programs that
17 would encourage small business job creation and local job
18 training activities; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we urge the Governor, each mayor of a municipality with a
22 high-crime area, and the sheriff of the county in which that
23 municipality is located to commit to the coordination of the
24 municipal police force, the Department of State Police, and the

1 sheriff's office to help to bring an end to rampant criminal
2 activity in that municipality's high-crime area; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That we recommend that the Governor and the
5 mayors of municipalities with high-crime areas urge Congress to
6 recognize the need for this type of joint effort and to support
7 grants for states, such as Illinois, which are struggling with
8 large budget deficits and are also facing serious problems in
9 high-crime areas; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to the Governor, each sheriff, and the mayor of each
12 municipality with a population of 50,000 or more, and to each
13 member of the Illinois congressional delegation.