



SR1782

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is the duty of the United States Congress to enact measures that establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for every resident of this nation; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout the course of our nation's history, there has been one consistent voice supporting racial and social inequality and promoting the intimidation, subjugation, and violent repression of individuals solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status; and

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WHEREAS, Since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Ku Klux Klan and its many affiliates have terrorized African-Americans; and

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WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1866, the main objective of this terrorist group has been to end or interfere with any policy giving equal rights to African-Americans; and

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WHEREAS, In 1964, the Ku Klux Klan was held responsible for the deaths of three civil rights workers (James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner), who were shot near Meridian,

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1 Mississippi; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1963, the Ku Klux Klan organized the bombing,
3 which claimed the lives of four young girls, of the Sixteenth
4 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama; and

5 WHEREAS, The Ku Klux Klan has used tactics such as
6 lynching, bombing, tar-and-feathering, shooting, rape,
7 assaults on both property and persons, assassinations, and a
8 host of Jim Crow-era laws in an effort to terrorize
9 African-Americans; they and their affiliates were pioneers in
10 the use of the Internet to recruit and mobilize members and
11 remain an active online presence, seeking to indoctrinate and
12 inspire youth to continue their campaign of hate; and

13 WHEREAS, The Ku Klux Klan's tactics mirror those of
14 modern-day terrorist groups such as ISIS, BOKO Haram, and
15 others whose sole purpose is to intimidate, disenfranchise,
16 silence, and kill particular groups of people; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ku Klux Klan's message of racial and social
18 injustice has led to senseless acts of violence that continue
19 to terrorize African-American individuals and communities in
20 our time; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Congress to
2 recognize the Ku Klux Klan as a terrorist organization and
3 pursue dismantling this domestic terrorist hate group with the
4 same fervor used to protect the United States from other
5 manifestations of terrorism; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 delivered to the Speaker of the United States House of
8 Representatives Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch
9 McConnell, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
10 Delegation.