



SR0758

LRB104 21678 ECR 37237 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, For more than 400 years, millions of people were
3 stolen from Africa, put in shackles, and shipped to the New
4 World to toil as slaves in cotton fields and on sugar and
5 coffee plantations under scorching heat and the crack of a
6 whip; and

7 WHEREAS, Denied their basic humanity and even their own
8 names, the enslaved were forced to endure generations of
9 exploitation with repercussions that reverberate today,
10 including persistent anti-Black racism and discrimination; and

11 WHEREAS, The countries from which enslaved Africans were
12 taken also suffered the loss of entire generations who could
13 have potentially helped these countries grow and prosper; and

14 WHEREAS, Many consider the trafficking of enslaved
15 Africans and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans as the
16 gravest crime against humanity and violation against human
17 rights in history; and

18 WHEREAS, Addressing historical wrongs affecting Africans
19 and people of the diaspora in a manner that promotes justice,
20 human rights, dignity, and healing should be a priority for
21 our nation, even though the United States does not currently

1 recognize a legal right to reparations for historical wrongs
2 that were not illegal under international law at the time they
3 occurred; and

4 WHEREAS, Confronting slavery's lasting legacies of
5 inequality and racism is necessary to help remove the
6 persistent barriers that prevent so many people of African
7 descent from realizing their potential; and

8 WHEREAS, It is imperative that countries around the world
9 drive action to eradicate systemic racism, ensure reparatory
10 justice, and accelerate inclusive development, resulting in
11 equal access to education, health, employment, housing, and a
12 safe environment; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United
15 States Congress to formally apologize, prioritize restitution
16 of cultural items, and make reparations for the legacies of
17 slavery and colonialism in acknowledgment of the importance of
18 human rights, equality, and the inherent worth of every
19 person; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate
22 Minority Leader, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House

1 of Representatives Minority Leader, and all members of the
2 Illinois Congressional Delegation.