



HR0907

LRB101 21893 MST 72855 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Since the Amendment's passage by Congress on  
3 January 31, 1965 and its ratification on December 6, 1865, the  
4 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
5 prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a  
6 punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly  
7 convicted; and

8

WHEREAS, The 13th Amendment did not end slavery and  
9 involuntary servitude; it merely changed slavery and  
10 involuntary servitude; and

11

WHEREAS, The exception to the 13th Amendment led to a  
12 carceral system and mass incarceration that did not exist  
13 before its passage; and

14

WHEREAS, After the passage of the 13th Amendment, laws and  
15 practices were implemented explicitly to make it a crime to be  
16 black in the United States; these laws and practices included  
17 Jim Crow, segregation, redlining, voter suppression, Dred  
18 Scott, the War on Drugs, and police brutality; and

19

WHEREAS, Systemic racism has prevented black Americans  
20 from building wealth, and even when they did, it has often been  
21 taken from them by violent force, such as in 1921 when the

1 affluent black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood  
2 District, referred to as the Black Wall Street, was attacked by  
3 a white mob and burned to the ground; and

4 WHEREAS, The inability to build generational wealth  
5 relegates individuals to poverty and living without basic  
6 necessities; the prison industrial complex perpetuates this  
7 for three main reasons: (1) prison labor is slavery, (2)  
8 instead of paying workers, taxpayers pay for correctional  
9 centers to give corporations free labor, and (3) unfair justice  
10 systems are built to keep black inmates in prison; therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we urge the United States Congress to take action to amend the  
15 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States by  
16 striking "except as a punishment for crime whereof the party  
17 shall have been duly convicted" in Section 1; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to all members of the United States Congress.