



HR0193

LRB103 31726 LAW 60308 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize the National Association of  
4 Black Social Workers, Inc. (NABSW), comprised of people of  
5 African ancestry, for its commitment to enhancing the quality  
6 of life and empowering people of African ancestry through  
7 advocacy, human services delivery, and research; and

8           WHEREAS, NABSW was created during the 1960s Civil Rights  
9 Movement in San Francisco, California on May 8, 1968 by a group  
10 of Black social workers who were convened for the National  
11 Conference on Social Welfare, the largest professional social  
12 work organization at the time; the organization's early  
13 activity was spearheaded by Cenie "Jomo" Williams Jr., the  
14 first national president and later the first executive  
15 director, who was instrumental in developing chapters in the  
16 United States, South America, the Caribbean, and Canada; and

17           WHEREAS, Through NABSW, people of African ancestry had an  
18 opportunity to unify in combating racism and white supremacy  
19 in the social welfare system; this new organization  
20 immediately articulated demands for change within the existing  
21 welfare structure; and

22           WHEREAS, Since 1969, NABSW has sponsored annual national

1 conferences that address issues of social work service  
2 delivery, education, research, and alternative ideas for  
3 improving communities in America for people of African  
4 ancestry; and

5 WHEREAS, NABSW has additionally produced several position  
6 statements and publications in order to relate issues within  
7 the human services, social welfare, and juvenile justice  
8 systems and other systems that impact clients, the community,  
9 staff, educators, and policymakers; and

10 WHEREAS, NABSW's activities have also included  
11 participating in efforts to secure reparations for people of  
12 African ancestry, spotlighting the overrepresentation of  
13 African American children in child welfare and juvenile  
14 justice systems, studying the health and wellness of African  
15 Americans, providing voter education, and numerous additional  
16 advocacy efforts at the local, regional, and national levels;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, NABSW has become the foremost advocacy group  
19 established to address social issues and concerns of the Black  
20 community and, since its inception, has worked to create a  
21 world in which people of African ancestry will live free from  
22 racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural  
23 oppression; and

1           WHEREAS, NABSW, in collaboration with national,  
2 international, and other appropriate groups, continues to  
3 leverage its collective expertise to strategically develop the  
4 capacity of people of African ancestry to sustain and  
5 flourish; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we recognize the National Association of Black Social Workers,  
9 Inc. (NABSW) for its commitment to enhancing the quality of  
10 life and empowering people of African ancestry through  
11 advocacy, human services delivery, and research; and be it  
12 further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to NABSW as an expression of our esteem and respect.