



HR0544

LRB098 13014 RLC 47522 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The United States has the highest incarceration
3 rate of any country in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, With over 2,300,000 men and women living behind
5 bars, our imprisonment rate is the highest it has ever been in
6 United States history; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite the high incarceration rate in the United
8 States, our criminal justice system is not cost effective,
9 disproportionately impacts minorities and the poor, and does
10 not enhance public safety; and

11 WHEREAS, On August 1, 2013, Senators Dick Durbin and Mike
12 Lee introduced S. 1410, the Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013; and

13 WHEREAS, The bill seeks to modernize federal drug
14 sentencing laws by lowering mandatory minimum sentences for
15 persons convicted of non-violent drug offenses; and

16 WHEREAS, The bill would apply the Fair Sentencing Act
17 retroactively, an Act enacted in 2010 that reduced the
18 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, by
19 allowing the courts to review the sentences of persons
20 convicted under the prior cocaine laws that were determined by

1 Congress to be unjust and racially disparate to determine
2 whether those persons convicted deserve sentences consistent
3 with current law; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate Senator Durbin for introducing the Smarter
7 Sentencing Act of 2013 and urge Congress to pass the bill; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the Speaker of the United States House of
11 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States
12 Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional
13 delegation.