



HR0779

LRB098 19466 MST 54634 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Income inequality has risen significantly since
3 the early 1970s, after several decades of stability; while it
4 has risen among most developed countries, it is highest in the
5 United States; income inequality continues to hurt the growth
6 of both the State and country; and

7 WHEREAS, The Poor People's Campaign was a 1968 effort to
8 gain economic justice for poor people in the United States; it
9 was organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern
10 Christian Leadership Conference and carried out in the wake of
11 Dr. King's assassination; and

12 WHEREAS, The Poor People's Campaign demanded economic and
13 human rights for poor Americans of a diverse background;
14 organizers presented a set of demands to the United States
15 Congress and executive agencies; participants set up a
16 3000-person tent city on the Washington Mall, "Resurrection
17 City", where they stayed for 6 weeks; and

18 WHEREAS, The Poor People's Campaign was motivated by a
19 desire for economic justice - the idea that all people should
20 have what they need to live; the campaign would help the poor
21 by dramatizing their needs and united all races under the
22 commonality of hardship and presenting a plan to start a

1 solution; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the
3 Poor People's Campaign included such leaders as Rev. James
4 Bevel, Stanley Levison, Ralph Abernathy, Bernard Lafayette,
5 Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Reies Tijerina, Stoney Cooks, Hosea
6 Williams, Rev. Fred C. Benette, Andrew Young, Walter Fauntroy,
7 and Rev. Jesse Jackson, "Mayor" of Resurrection City; and

8 WHEREAS, The Poor People's Campaign was designed to put the
9 plight of America's poor into stark images that those in power
10 in the United States could witness; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we recognize the Poor People's Campaign of 1968 and continue to
14 work towards the original goal of the campaign - to gain
15 economic justice for poor.