

R030-0304

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE**
20 **URGING OF CONGRESS TO PASS HR 40 A BILL THAT WOULD**
30 **CREATE A COMMISSION STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF SLAVERY**

40 **WHEREAS:** In 1989 and every subsequent year after, Representative John Conyers, Jr. has
50 introduced H.R. 40 into the House of Representatives; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The federal government should undertake an official study of the impact of
70 slavery on the social, political and economic life of our nation; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Over 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United
90 States and its colonies from 1619 to 1865, and as a result, the United States was able to begin its
100 grand place as the most prosperous country in the free world; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** The commission would make recommendations to Congress on appropriate
120 remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** The commission established would also shed light on the capture and
140 procurement of slaves, the transport and sale of slaves, the treatment of slaves in the colonies and
150 in the United States; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** It would examine the extent to which Federal and State governments in the U.S.
170 supported the institution of slavery and examine federal and state laws that discriminated against
180 freed African slaves from the end of the Civil War to the present; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** Many of the most pressing issues, which have heretofore not been broached on
200 any broad scale, would be addressed; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** For example, the issue such as the lingering negative effects of the institution of
220 slavery; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** H.R. 40 has strong grass roots support within the African American community,
240 including major civil rights organizations, religious organizations, academic and civic groups from
250 across the country; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** This support is very similar to the strong grassroots support that proceeded
270 another legislative initiative: the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** H.R. 40 has over 40 cosponsors in the House of Representatives; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** The city councils in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and Atlanta have passed bills
300 supporting H.R. 40 and the State of Maryland has introduced legislation in the MGA to support
310 H.R. 40; and,

320 **WHEREAS:** It is a fact that slavery flourished in the United States and constituted an
330 immoral and inhumane deprivation of African slaves' lives, liberty and cultural heritage; and,

340 **WHEREAS:** The State of Maryland has established a commission to coordinate the study
350 and this commission is designed to determine the “commemoration and impact of slavery’s history
360 and legacy in Maryland; and,

370 **WHEREAS:** President Bush signed into public law HR 3491, which establishes within
380 the Smithsonian Institution, The National Museum of African-American History and Culture,
390 which will operate as a location for public education, exhibits, collection and study items,

400 materials relating to the life, art, history and culture of African-Americans that encompass the
410 period of slavery, the era of Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights
420 Movement as well as other periods of African-American history; and,

430 **WHEREAS:** In the interest of education and encouraging public awareness of the experiences
440 and contributions of African-Americans, many of which the American public as a whole are
450 unaware of and are unknown to the vast majority of American people, Congress should pass HR
460 40 and the President should sign it into law.

470 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
480 Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 40; and,

490 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges President Bush
500 to sign into law H.R. 40 when passed by the Congress of the United States.

510
520 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature commends the State of
530 Maryland on its attempts to further educate the public about African-American history; and,

540 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature commends President
550 George W. Bush for his part in encouraging such awareness by signing HR 3491 into public law
560 On December 16, 2003.

570 **MANDATES:** Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
580 Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle
590 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
600 House Majority Leader Tom DeLay
610 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
620 President George W. Bush
630 Vice President Dick Cheney
640 Representative John Conyers, Jr.

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