

House Resolution 41 - Introduced

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H.R. _____ S.R. _____

1 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. _____
1 2 BY BERRY, ABDUL=SAMAD, FORD, T. OLSON, LENSING,
1 3 COHOON, WENDT, KELLEY, H. MILLER, KRESSIG,
1 4 GAYMAN, and JACOBY
1 5 A Resolution recognizing the Ongoing Covenant With
1 6 Black Iowa Initiative for its role in improving
1 7 the life and the future of Black Iowans.
1 8 WHEREAS, the Ongoing Covenant With Black Iowa has
1 9 its origins in the New York Times bestseller: "The
1 10 Covenant With Black America" by the noted author and
1 11 commentator Tavis Smiley; and
1 12 WHEREAS, this book is a rich collection of essays
1 13 that plot a course for Black Americans, explaining how
1 14 individuals and households can make changes that will
1 15 immediately improve their circumstances in areas
1 16 ranging from health and education to crime reduction
1 17 and financial well-being; and
1 18 WHEREAS, as envisioned for Iowa, the Ongoing
1 19 Covenant Initiative is a strategic initiative designed
1 20 to organize Black Iowans in various communities around
1 21 critical issues such as the widening education gap,
1 22 economic deprivation and disempowerment, and the
1 23 hopelessness of youth; and
1 24 WHEREAS, the Ongoing Covenant Initiative involves
1 25 Black community leaders identifying, recruiting, and
1 26 organizing individuals within the nine target
1 27 communities where significant numbers of Black Iowans
1 28 reside: Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque,
1 29 Fort Dodge, Fort Madison/Burlington, Iowa City, Sioux
1 30 City, and Waterloo; and
2 1 WHEREAS, each participating community will
2 2 establish a leadership group to plan and develop
2 3 strategies in eight critical focus areas: economic
2 4 development, education, health care, housing, justice,
2 5 political involvement, spirituality, and youth; and
2 6 WHEREAS, the Iowa Commission on the Status of
2 7 African-Americans will then coalesce these plans into
2 8 a comprehensive state plan that can be used to
2 9 increase communication between Black Iowans, the
2 10 Governor's office, legislators, judges, and local
2 11 officials; and
2 12 WHEREAS, Mr. Abraham Funchess, Jr., an ordained
2 13 Methodist minister who serves as the director of the
2 14 Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans, is
2 15 the administrator of the Ongoing Covenant Initiative;
2 16 NOW THEREFORE,
2 17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
2 18 That the House of Representatives recognizes the
2 19 Ongoing Covenant With Black Iowa as a valuable program
2 20 to improve the life and future of Black Iowans, and
2 21 thanks the Iowa Commission on the Status of
2 22 African-Americans and all those persons who
2 23 participated in the creation of the Ongoing Covenant
2 24 Initiative.
2 25 LSB 2875HH 82
2 26 jr:nh/je/5