

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 992

Declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CLEAVER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination.

Whereas this resolution is presented in the spirit of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who—on January 8, 1964, after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, during a time of great turmoil—proclaimed, “This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America . . . Our aim is not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it.”;

Whereas President Barack Obama indicated, “In fact, if we hadn’t declared ‘unconditional war on poverty in America,’ millions more Americans would be living in poverty today.”;

Whereas some of the programs produced by the War on Poverty include Medicaid, Medicare, expanded Social Security, and Head Start—all of which are still needed today;

Whereas racism and invidious discrimination—like poverty in 1964—remain pervasive in our country;

Whereas history is replete with examples of victims of racism and invidious discrimination being denied life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas systemic and institutionalized racism and invidious discrimination exist in virtually all areas of American life, including policing, criminal justice, housing, banking, voting, employment, education, the environment, and health care; and

Whereas the protestations in the aftermath of the tragic death of George Floyd are a clear indication that it has become necessary for Congress to take decisive, immediate and long-term legislative action to address the elimination of racism and invidious discrimination: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) condemns racism and invidious discrimina-
- 3 tion as evil and antithetical to the U.S. Constitution;
- 4 (2) declares unconditional war on racism and
- 5 invidious discrimination in America and will provide
- 6 the resources and funding for their defeat; and

1 (3) shall pass legislation establishing a Cabinet-
2 level Department of Reconciliation charged with end-
3 ing racism and invidious discrimination, developing
4 and coordinating the implementation of a com-
5 prehensive national strategy to eliminate racism and
6 invidious discrimination, with a budget that shall be
7 the equivalent of not less than 10 percent of the De-
8 fense Department's budget, and headed by a Sec-
9 retary of Reconciliation appointed by the President
10 with the advice and consent of the Senate who shall
11 make semi-annual progress reports to Congress.

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