

1 Resolution to Reaffirm Support for H.R.40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation
2 Proposals for African Americans Act

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4 WHEREAS the 117th Congress reintroduced H.R.40, the Commission to Study and Develop
5 Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, and the proposed legislation cleared the House
6 Judiciary committee in April, 2021; and

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8 Whereas this bill was first proposed in 1989 by Congressman John Conyers, subsequently
9 reintroduced in every legislative session, and currently has as its lead sponsor, Rep. Sheila
10 Jackson Lee (D., Texas), and is co-sponsored by 18 members of the New York State
11 congressional delegation; and

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13 Whereas H.R. 40 is further supported by hundreds of other organizations, including the US
14 Conference of Mayors, the NAACP and ACLU; and

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16 Whereas the New York State United Teachers endorsed H.R. 40 in 2003; and

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18 Whereas H.R. 40's purpose is to establish a commission to "study and develop Reparation
19 proposals for African Americans" for damages that result from slavery, de jure and de facto
20 discrimination, and the "lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and . . .
21 discrimination . . . on living African Americans and on society in the United States"; and

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23 Whereas H.R. 40 seeks to "recommend appropriate ways to educate the American public of the
24 Commission's findings . . . and . . . recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the
25 Commission's findings;" and

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27 Whereas the American Federation of Teachers, in its 2021 resolution, "Making 'Black Lives
28 Matter' In Our Schools, observed that, "the United States has come to a historic moment of
29 reckoning with the systemic racism that has long plagued it, dating back to the enslavement of
30 Africans forcibly brought to our shores in 1619, as a result of the murders of George Floyd,
31 Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others, and the powerful protest movement that
32 has taken shape in their wake;" and resolved that "the American Federation of Teachers affirms
33 its historic commitment to ending systemic racism in American society;" and

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35 Whereas, as Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee reminds America: "We can't wait;" given how rarely
36 reparations has officially been "on the table" in U.S. history, this is the moment there may finally
37 be widespread support for its consideration;

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39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State United Teachers once again add its
40 name to those organizations endorsing H.R. 40; and be it further

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42 Resolved that NYSUT educate its members about H.R. 40 and its goals; and be it further

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44 Resolved that NYSUT and NYSUT locals work with the American Federation of Teachers to
45 ensure that the bill receives a Congressional hearing and be taken up by the full Congress in

46 2022.

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