

By: Representative Fleming

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FUNDAMENTAL INJUSTICE,  
3 CRUELTY, BRUTALITY AND INHUMANITY OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES  
4 AND TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE INSTITUTION OF  
5 SLAVERY, DE JURE AND DE FACTO RACIAL AND ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION  
6 AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE CONTINUING IMPACT OF THESE  
7 FORCES ON AFRICAN AMERICANS TODAY; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
8 CONGRESS ON APPROPRIATE REMEDIES.

9 WHEREAS, the United States government has never acknowledged  
10 or taken responsibility for its role in the enslavement of  
11 Africans and the perpetuation of subordination and inferiority  
12 among African descendants; and

13 WHEREAS, the subsequent impact of enslavement, segregation  
14 and discrimination continues to have a significant effect upon the  
15 lives of African Americans causing limited opportunities and life  
16 chances because, when there is trauma that is not discussed, it  
17 persists through generations; and

18 WHEREAS, millions of African Americans remain economically  
19 and socially disabled by the long, cruel vestiges of American  
20 slavery and the century of government-embraced racial  
21 discrimination that followed, African social and economic  
22 institutions were destroyed; languages, religions and customs were  
23 extinguished; and as a result of the ravages of slavery and the  
24 racial strictures that followed, African Americans were consigned  
25 to this nation's economic bottom; and

26 WHEREAS, African Americans continue to strive to improve  
27 their educational attainment, economic conditions and family  
28 social organization, yet have been held back by official  
29 indifference creating a deliberate and systematic exclusion from  
30 institutions of power; and

31           WHEREAS, because American history regards African Americans  
32 as slaves, the other side of the dialogue must be understood,  
33 which is that the so-called slave was an enslaved African and this  
34 identity is bereft of humanity and lacking in dignity; and

35           WHEREAS, all Americans and the United States government have  
36 experienced tremendous gain and continue to benefit from the  
37 unjust expropriation of uncompensated labor by enslaved Africans,  
38 the subordination and segregation of the descendants of the  
39 enslaved, as well as from discrimination against African  
40 Americans; and

41           WHEREAS, African Americans have consistently sought to obtain  
42 reparations in the courts of the United States and through appeals  
43 to its government since the de jure end of slavery and have been  
44 unjustly denied relief; and

45           WHEREAS, it is imperative that Congress establish a  
46 commission to conduct a study on the lingering effects of slavery  
47 and require the commission to recommend an appropriate remedy:

48           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
49 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
50 THEREIN, That we request the Mississippi congressional delegation  
51 to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and  
52 inhumanity of de jure slavery in the United States and require the  
53 delegation to establish a commission to examine the institution of  
54 slavery, de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination  
55 against African Americans and the continuing impact of these  
56 forces on African Americans today, and to make recommendations to  
57 Congress on appropriate remedies.

58           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall  
59 be furnished to each member of the Mississippi congressional  
60 delegation and to the Capitol Press Corps.