

By: McClendon

H.C.R. No. 192

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in
2 America (N'COBRA) is a group founded for the purpose of obtaining
3 reparations for Americans of African descent in consequence of the
4 injury done by slavery and its continuing vestiges; and

5 WHEREAS, It is estimated that by the end of the
6 trans-Atlantic slave trade, between 8 and 12 million Africans had
7 been wrenched from their homes and shipped to various ports in the
8 New World, and that a like number died in the process of capture and
9 transport; from 1619, when the first Africans were landed in
10 Virginia, until 1865, more than 8 million Africans and their
11 descendants lived in the United States as property; and

12 WHEREAS, Under slavery, people of African origin and descent
13 produced the chief commercial crops of the South, built public
14 works, and labored in a number of skilled and unskilled
15 occupations; the value of their unpaid toil amounted to as much as
16 \$40 million, a figure equivalent today, some have figured, to more
17 than \$1 trillion; and

18 WHEREAS, Deprived of compensation for their work, slaves were
19 also vulnerable to the most capricious brutality; to the sundering
20 of their families, especially after the interstate slave trade
21 became a major enterprise; and, always, to a continuing denial of
22 their basic human rights and dignity; and

23 WHEREAS, Even after slavery was abolished, African Americans
24 continued to endure institutionalized forms of discrimination that

1 constrained educational and economic opportunities, consigned them
2 to unequal treatment in accommodations and social services, and
3 deprived many of the right to vote; the threat of violence, too,
4 remained a looming presence: between 1865 and 1965, more than 2,400
5 African Americans were lynched; today, at the beginning of the 21st
6 century, the deprecation and unequal treatment of African Americans
7 is a habit of mind and practice that has yet to be fully expunged;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Created in 1987 by several organizations, among them
10 the National Conference of Black Lawyers, N'COBRA works to educate
11 the public about the legal principle of reparations and about the
12 need for such a remedy in the case of African Americans; in
13 addition, the organization advocates in behalf of federal, state,
14 and municipal resolutions supporting reparations and cooperates
15 with other groups in seeking redress through the courts; it is also
16 active in the international reparations movement; and

17 WHEREAS, N'COBRA seeks reparations from two entities:
18 governments and corporations that once profited from slavery; the
19 form such reparations might take varies widely, from cash payments
20 to funding for scholarships and community development, the creation
21 of textbooks, museums, and other channels for telling the history
22 of African Americans from their perspective, and the elimination of
23 practices that result in the disparate treatment of African
24 Americans in the country's health, education, economic, and justice
25 systems; and

26 WHEREAS, While reparations are envisioned as a crucial means
27 of repairing the damage done to a people by slavery and its long

1 aftermath, it is expected that reparations may also be a way to make
2 peace with the past; by bringing to the forefront of public
3 awareness the full story of slavery's impact on those kept in
4 bondage, of the oppression African Americans continued to suffer
5 after emancipation, and of the ways in which white skin color
6 continues to confer privileges, reparations may enable this country
7 at last to acknowledge the pain of slavery and its legacy and to
8 move on; and

9 WHEREAS, N'COBRA believes that telling the truth about wrongs
10 and making atonement are essential characteristics of a just
11 society, and the organization is dedicated to helping Americans
12 overcome the continuing effects of a baneful institution; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby recognize the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations
16 in America for its commitment to fostering national healing and
17 reconciliation; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for N'COBRA as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives and Senate.