

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.145

Reps. Gay-Dagnogo, Sowerby, Kennedy, Hood, Rabhi, Pagan, Ellison, Kuppa, Yancey, Garrett, Byrd, Witwer, Garza, Manoogian, Bolden, Wittenberg and Pohutsky offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Governor to make substantial progress  
2 toward eliminating the disparities minority- and women-owned  
3 businesses experience in the state contracting process.

4 Whereas, A true government of the people must always seek  
5 equitable outcomes and be accountable to all people, especially  
6 people from disadvantaged groups. This notion only becomes more  
7 important in matters involving the use of public funds; and

8 Whereas, The state spends billions of dollars each year on  
9 goods and services from outside vendors, but the share of that  
10 spending that goes to minority- and women-owned businesses lags  
11 behind the population share of those groups; and



1       Whereas, The state has a responsibility to pursue fairness in  
2 the contracting and procurement process. Businesses owned by people  
3 of color and women should not routinely receive a smaller share of  
4 state contracts than other businesses; and

5       Whereas, Awarding contracts to minority- and women-owned  
6 businesses will help promote economic growth and shrink racial- and  
7 gender-based disparities that exist in society. Investing in  
8 businesses owned by people of color and women will have cascading  
9 positive effects in communities that have seen underinvestment for  
10 generations; and

11       Whereas, Ensuring that the state contracting process addresses  
12 these inequalities requires forward-thinking leadership and  
13 proactive efforts. The Governor has made important progress by  
14 appointing people of color and women to key positions in her  
15 administration and issuing Executive Directives 2019-08 and 2019-09  
16 which, in part, promote geographically-disadvantaged businesses and  
17 work to ensure equal opportunity in state contracting, but more can  
18 be done to eliminate these disparities; and

19       Whereas, It is important to pursue policies that improve the  
20 state's process for selecting vendors, including reviving the  
21 Department of Civil Rights' role in certifying vendors that have  
22 demonstrated compliance with the non-discrimination requirements  
23 established in state and federal law. It is also equally as  
24 important to make sure the state is doing everything it can to  
25 solicit bids from minority- and women-owned businesses that have  
26 not previously sought state contracts; now, therefore, be it

27       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
28 Governor to make substantial progress toward eliminating the  
29 disparities minority- and women-owned businesses experience in the



1 state contracting process; and be it further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
3 Governor and the Director of the Department of Management,  
4 Technology and Budget.