

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.101

Senators Geiss, McCann, Brinks, Alexander, Bullock, Wojno, Lucido, McMorrow, Zorn, Polehanki, McBroom, Chang, Moss, Bayer, Irwin and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize February 2020 as Black History
2 Month.

3 Whereas, The origins of Black History Month began in 1915
4 after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
5 abolished slavery in the United States. Since 1976, every U.S.
6 President has adopted the month of February as Black History Month,
7 an annual celebration of African-American achievements and roles in
8 our history; and

9 Whereas, As a result of the Civil Rights Movement and a
10 growing awareness of black identity, Black History Month is a time

1 to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and explore,
2 understand, and appreciate the identities and cultures across and
3 within the African diaspora; and

4 Whereas, We pay tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson who organized
5 a national Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national
6 attention to the contributions of black people throughout American
7 history, evolving into a month-long celebration of black progress
8 and power; and

9 Whereas, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black
10 History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the
11 opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of
12 black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history";
13 and

14 Whereas, Michigan recognizes the injustices that African-
15 Americans have endured and commends the African-American community
16 for the continuous pursuit of overcoming those injustices while
17 changing the course and nature of history. We honor the prominent
18 leaders and activists who have paved the way for equality and
19 justice; now, therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
21 body recognize February 2020 as Black History Month; and be it
22 further

23 Resolved, That we honor the contributions and sacrifices made
24 toward building pride in black history and educating all Americans;
25 and be it further

26 Resolved, That we join other organizations throughout the
27 state of Michigan and this country to use this occasion to raise
28 awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured,
29 celebrate the milestones achieved, and to continue the unrelenting

1 pursuit of equality and justice for all.