

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Senators Hollier, Barrett, Ananich, Chang, Geiss, Bullock, Wojno, Polehanki, Santana, Moss, Bayer, Brinks and Irwin offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to affirm our support for the
2 Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3 Whereas, The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was
4 a critical step in advancing our nation towards our founding
5 principle that "all men are created equal." Ratified in the wake of
6 the Civil War, the amendment extended fundamental legal and civil
7 protections to former slaves; and

8 Whereas, The Fourteenth Amendment grants federal and state
9 citizenship to all people born and naturalized in the United States
10 and prohibits states from enforcing any law that infringes on the

1 privileges or immunities of citizenship. This ensured that states
2 could not deny the citizenship to newly freed slaves and directly
3 rebuked the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous ruling in *Dred Scott v.*
4 *Sanford* (1857), in which the court ruled that African Americans
5 could not be citizens; and

6 Whereas, The Fourteenth Amendment also ensures due process and
7 equal protection under the law for all people. These clauses have
8 been, and continue to be, crucial to important victories for
9 progress and civil rights. The equal protection clause was critical
10 to the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings in *Brown v. Board of Education*
11 *of Topeka* (1954) and *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), which prohibited
12 segregation in public schools and outlawed bans on interracial
13 marriage; and

14 Whereas, Protecting the rights afforded by the Fourteenth
15 Amendment has often required the will of public leaders. Less than
16 three years after the amendment was ratified, three federal laws
17 were enacted to ensure its enforcement in the face of the growing
18 Ku Klux Klan movement and state actions to subjugate former slaves.
19 As our nation faces similar challenges, today's public leaders have
20 a duty to defend the right ensured by the Fourteenth Amendment;
21 now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
23 concurring), That we affirm our support for the Fourteenth
24 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.