

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

Senators Santana, Wojno, Cavanagh, McMorrow, Irwin, Cherry, McCann, Bayer, Geiss, Chang, Shink, Hertel, McDonald Rivet, Klinefelt, Polehanki, Brinks, Moss, Camilleri and Singh offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize February 2023 as Black History  
2 Month.

3           Whereas, The origins of Black History Month began as a concept  
4 in 1915, and in earnest in 1924 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, through  
5 his beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., created Negro History  
6 and Literature Week in the United States. Since 1976, every United  
7 States President has adopted the month of February as Black History  
8 Month, an annual celebration of African-American achievements and  
9 roles in our history; and

1           Whereas, As a result of growing awareness of Black identity  
2 and the contributions of the Civil Rights Movement, Black History  
3 Month is a time to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and  
4 to explore, understand, and appreciate the identities and cultures  
5 across and within the African diaspora; and

6           Whereas, We pay tribute to, not only the many African-American  
7 historical figures in our nation's history, but also the hidden  
8 figures that have contributed to American ingenuity and innovation  
9 throughout the existence of this great nation, the celebration of  
10 which has evolved into a month-long celebration of Black progress  
11 and power; and

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

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

23           Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
24 body recognize February 2023 as Black History Month; and be it  
25 further

26           Resolved, That we honor the contributions and sacrifices made  
27 toward building pride in Black history and educating all Americans;  
28 and be it further

29           Resolved, That during a national pandemic which

1 disproportionately affects African-Americans, we join other  
2 organizations throughout the state of Michigan and this country to  
3 raise awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured,  
4 celebrate the milestones achieved, and continue the unrelenting  
5 pursuit of equality and justice for all.