

## MICHIGAN SENATE

### Senate Resolution No. 11

Offered by Senators Bullock, Santana, Irwin, Wojno, Alexander, Hertel, Hollier, Ananich, Brinks, Polehanki, Bayer, Moss, Chang, Zorn, Daley, VanderWall, Victory, Barrett, MacDonald, Horn, Bizon, Shirkey, Lauwers, Johnson, McBroom, Outman, Schmidt, Geiss, Stamas and Theis

#### A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 2021 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

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

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

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

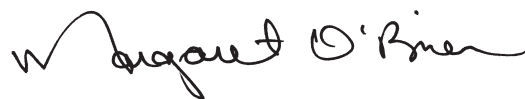
WHEREAS, Michigan recognizes the injustices that African-Americans have endured and commends the African-American community for the continuous pursuit of overcoming those injustices, while changing the course and nature of history. We honor the prominent leaders and activists who have paved the way for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

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the members of this legislative body recognize February 2021 as Black History Month; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That during a national pandemic which disproportionately affects African-Americans, we join other organizations throughout the state of Michigan and this country to raise awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured, celebrate the milestones achieved, and continue the unrelenting pursuit of equality and justice for all.

Adopted by the Senate, February 4, 2021.



Secretary of the Senate