

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.11

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 and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize February 2021 as Black History
2 Month.

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

1 achievements and roles in our history; and

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

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

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

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

24 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
25 body recognize February 2021 as Black History Month; and be it
26 further

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

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