

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

Reps. McKinney, Young, Neeley, Grant, Edwards, Farhat, Coleman, O'Neal, Aiyash, Rheingans, Martus, Brabec, Coffia, Puri, McFall, Byrnes, Wegela, Glanville, Tsernoglou, Morgan, Tate, Andrews, Hood, Dievendorf, Miller, Fitzgerald, Schuette, Arbit, Pohutsky, Wilson, Brenda Carter, Price, Haadsma, Morse, Hoskins, Hope, MacDonell, Tyrone Carter, Whitsett, Churches, BeGole, Breen, Koleszar, Liberati, Rogers, Shannon, Snyder and Weiss offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare February 2023 as Black History Month  
2 in the state of Michigan.

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

1 our history; and

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

7       Whereas, We pay tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who  
8 organized a national Negro History Week as an initiative to bring  
9 national attention to the contributions of black people throughout  
10 American history, evolving into a month-long celebration of black  
11 progress 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 House of Representatives, That the members of  
24 this legislative body declare February 2023 as Black History Month  
25 in the state of Michigan; and be it 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 we join other organizations throughout the

1 state of Michigan and this country to use this occasion to raise  
2 awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured,  
3 celebrate the milestones achieved, and to continue the unrelenting  
4 pursuit of equality and justice for all.