

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

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

1 A concurrent resolution to request the Joint Committee on the
2 Library of Congress approve the replacement of Michigan's statue of
3 Lewis Cass with a statue of Coleman A. Young as part of the
4 National Statuary Hall Collection and to take other actions related
5 to this request.

6 Whereas, Congress authorized the creation of the National
7 Statuary Hall Collection in 1864 to provide an opportunity for each
8 state to honor two distinguished people with statues at the U.S.
9 Capitol. Currently, Lewis Cass and Gerald Ford represent the state
10 of Michigan in the collection. The statues were placed in the U.S.
11 Capitol in 1889 and 2011, respectively; and

12 Whereas, Federal law establishes a process by which states may

1 request the replacement of a statue located in the National
2 Statuary Hall Collection. The first step in the process is the
3 state legislature adopting a resolution identifying the statue to
4 replace and the person to be honored with a new statue; selecting
5 the entity responsible for choosing the sculptor; and directing the
6 method of obtaining funds to cover the necessary costs of the
7 replacement. Federal law also requires that the state's governor
8 submit a written request to provide a new statue to the Architect
9 of the Capitol along with a description of the location in the
10 state where the replaced statue will be displayed after it is
11 transferred, and a copy of the resolution authorizing the
12 replacement; and

13 Whereas, A statue of Lewis Cass was placed in the U.S. Capitol
14 on behalf of Michigan in the late 19th century in recognition of
15 his service to the state of Michigan and United States. Lewis Cass
16 served as a Governor of the Michigan territory, U.S. Senator from
17 Michigan, U.S. Secretary of War, U.S. Secretary of State, and U.S.
18 Ambassador to France during his career; and

19 Whereas, Honoring Lewis Cass with a statue in the National
20 Statuary Hall Collection is no longer consistent with the values of
21 the people of Michigan. While Lewis Cass was an accomplished public
22 figure, he played a prominent role in the implementation of
23 President Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy, was a proponent
24 of allowing states and territories to permit slavery, and enslaved
25 at least one person himself; and

26 Whereas, Coleman A. Young was the first African-American mayor
27 of Detroit and one of the most accomplished leaders in Michigan's
28 largest city's history. Young served his country as a bombardier
29 and navigator with the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. He

1 demonstrated an early interest in justice and fairness,
2 spearheading a protest against the exclusion of Blacks from
3 segregated officers' clubs. Young became a union activist after the
4 war and was elected to the Michigan Senate, serving for nine years.
5 The people of Detroit elected him as their mayor for the first time
6 in 1973, reelecting him four times over the next two decades. Young
7 was known for championing needs of the city's Black community and
8 for building coalitions among its business leaders. Under his
9 leadership, the city saw the completion of a number of major
10 projects, such as the Renaissance Center, Detroit People Mover, and
11 Joe Louis Arena. Young's contributions to the city of Detroit and
12 our entire state make him deserving of a place in the National
13 Statuary Hall Collection; and

14 Whereas, The Michigan Statuary Hall Commission will select the
15 sculptor and secure funding for this project; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
17 concurring), That we request the Joint Committee on the Library of
18 Congress approve the replacement of Michigan's statue of Lewis Cass
19 with a statue of Coleman A. Young as part of the National Statuary
20 Hall Collection; and be it further

21 Resolved, That we urge the Governor to communicate approval of
22 this replacement to the Architect of the Capitol and to sign an
23 agreement with the Architect of the Capitol to replace the Lewis
24 Cass statue with one of Coleman A. Young; and be it further

25 Resolved, That we hereby establish the Michigan Statuary Hall
26 Commission. The commission will select an artist to sculpt the
27 statue of Coleman A. Young. The commission shall be made up of five
28 members, with one member appointed by each of the Governor, the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority

1 Leader, the House Minority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader;
2 and be it further

3 Resolved, That the costs of this entire project, including the
4 costs of creating, transporting, and placing both statues at their
5 respective locations and the costs related to ceremonies that may
6 be held in Lansing and Washington, D.C., will be paid for by
7 donations and other funding secured by the Michigan Statuary Hall
8 Commission; and be it further

9 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
10 Governor, the Architect of the Capitol, the President of the United
11 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
12 Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional
13 delegation, and the members of the Joint Committee on the Library
14 of Congress.