

SR-141, As Adopted by Senate, February 10, 2016

Senator Hood offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 141.

A resolution to commemorate February 2016 as Black History Month.

Whereas, The origins of Black History Month begin in 1915 after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Since 1976, every President has adopted the month of February as Black History Month, an annual celebration of African-American achievements and role in U.S History; and

Whereas, We pay tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson for the study of black history and his promotion of achievements by African Americans and others of African descent. In 1926, he organized a national Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history that 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, Due to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and explore and understand the black identity and culture; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the injustices that African Americans have endured and commends the African-American community for overcoming those injustices and changing the course and nature of history. We honor the prominent leaders and activists who have paved the way for equality and justice for not only African Americans, but all Americans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body commemorate February 2016 as Black History Month, and we honor the contributions made in building pride and dignity in black people and educating Americans; and be it further

Resolved, That we join other organizations throughout the state of Michigan and this country, as we use this occasion to raise awareness of the hardships African Americans have endured and celebrate the milestones we have achieved for equality and justice for all; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Michigan chapters of the NAACP.