

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

Senators Bullock, Alexander, Ananich, Hertel, Hollier, Geiss, McCann, Bayer, McMorrow, Moss, Polehanki, Santana, Wojno, Brinks, Chang, Irwin, Johnson, Victory, Zorn, Bumstead, Outman, Theis, Daley, McBroom, Stamas, MacDonald, Horn, LaSata, Shirkey, Lauwers, Nesbitt, Schmidt and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth.

2 Whereas, The transatlantic slave trade system established both
3 Europe and North America as world powers by and through the
4 commoditization of Africans. Millions of Africans suffered disease
5 and death on the eight week voyages across the Middle Passage; and

6 Whereas, From 1619 through 1865, millions of Africans and
7 their descendants were enslaved in the United States, the thirteen
8 American colonies, and eventually the United States of America; and

1 Whereas, Maritime, agricultural, insurance, defense, tobacco,
2 sugar, and cotton industries were established off profits from the
3 atrocities of slavery; and

4 Whereas, Slavery highlights the fundamental hypocrisy and
5 moral contradiction of European whites in America who declared
6 independent rights from Great Britain, while holding in bondage
7 more than 100,000 Africans; and

8 Whereas, Michigan served as the major hub of the Underground
9 Railroad and home to several white abolitionists, including U.S.
10 Representative and U.S. Senator Jacob Merritt Howard, Guy Beckley
11 of Ann Arbor, Erastus Hussey of Battle Creek, and Seymour Finney of
12 Detroit; and

13 Whereas, Through the work of these great men of all colors,
14 the Second Baptist Church of Detroit, Friends of the Fugitives,
15 Anti-Slavery Society, and other institutions, thousands of slaves
16 were freed; and

17 Whereas, On this day in 1865, Texas was the last state to
18 recognize that enslaved persons were free, two and a half years
19 after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President
20 Lincoln. For this reason, it is celebrated as Juneteenth; and

21 Whereas, Slavery was abolished through the passage of the 13th
22 Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865, after the end
23 of the Civil War; and

24 Whereas, After the emancipation from 247 years of slavery,
25 Africans in America continue to experience the vestiges of slavery
26 from challenges with voting rights, inadequate public education
27 systems, lack of access to capital lending institutions, police
28 brutality, and other social and economic injustices; now,
29 therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
2 body commemorate June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth; and be it further

3 Resolved, That we recognize the devastating legacy of American
4 slavery, and encourage all citizens of Michigan to educate each
5 other and future generations on the history of slavery in order to
6 ensure that this tragedy will never be forgotten or repeated.