

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Rep. O'Neal offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare February 2025 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
8 our history; and

9 Whereas, As a result of the civil rights movement and a
10 growing awareness of black identity, Black History Month is a time
11 to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and explore,
12 understand and appreciate the identities and cultures across and
13 within the African diaspora; and

14 Whereas, We pay tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who

1 organized a national Negro History Week as an initiative to bring
2 national attention to the contributions of black people throughout
3 American history, evolving into a month-long celebration of black
4 progress and power; and

5 Whereas, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black
6 History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the
7 opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of
8 black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history";
9 and

10 Whereas, Michigan recognizes the injustices that African
11 Americans have endured and commends the African-American community
12 for the continuous pursuit of overcoming those injustices while
13 changing the course and nature of history. We honor the prominent
14 leaders and activists who have paved the way for equality and
15 justice; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
17 this legislative body declare February 2025 as Black History Month
18 in the state of Michigan; and be it further

19 Resolved, That we honor the contributions and sacrifices made
20 toward building pride in black history and educating all Americans;
21 and be it further

22 Resolved, That we join other organizations throughout the
23 state of Michigan and this country to use this occasion to raise
24 awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured,
25 celebrate the milestones achieved and to continue the unrelenting
26 pursuit of equality and justice for all.