

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ken Cooley, Chair

ACR 18 (Kamlager) – As Introduced February 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Black History Month.

SUMMARY: Recognizes February 2021 as Black History Month, and urges all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month.

Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The history of the United States is rich with inspirational stories of great individuals whose actions, words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States.
- 2) Among those Americans who have enriched our society are the members of the African American community, individuals whose accomplishments have contributed to every endeavor throughout the history of our nation and who have been steadfast in their commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for all.
- 3) During the course of the slave trade, an estimated 50 million African men, women, and children were lost to their native continent. The majority of those individuals, about 35 million, lost their lives on African soil or along the Guinea coast, or finally in the holds of ships during the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 4) From the earliest days of the United States, the course of its history has been greatly influenced by African American heroes and pioneers in many diverse areas, including science, medicine, business, education, government, industry, and social leadership.
- 5) The Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state mandating racial segregation in the South, known as the “Jim Crow Laws,” thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America.
- 6) Despite over 50 years of progress, African Americans continue to face racial and social injustices, voter suppression, economic stagnation, and voting barriers in jurisdictions with a history of discrimination.
- 7) To build a stronger and more cohesive state and nation, we must continue to help advance the cause of voter equality and equal access to the political process for all people in order to protect the rights of every American.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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