

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.105

Senators Alexander, Geiss, Bullock, Polehanki, Moss, Bayer, McBroom, McCann, Lauwers, Wojno, Ananich and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the
2 ratification of the 15th Amendment.

3 Whereas, The United States Congress sought to correct an
4 imbalance of power by expanding the national voting privilege for
5 white male citizens above 21 years old to include African-Americans
6 of similar distinction; and

7 Whereas, As a result, Congress proposed the 15th Amendment to
8 the Constitution which would prohibit the denial of voting rights
9 based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and

10 Whereas, On February 26, 1869, Congress voted to approve the

1 15th Amendment which was then submitted to the states for
2 ratification. Michigan then ratified the 15th Amendment on February
3 3, 1870; and

4 Whereas, The 15th Amendment was the first constitutional
5 amendment to grant voting rights to previously excluded Americans.
6 This also set the precedent for 50 years later with the adoption of
7 women's suffrage in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution; and

8 Whereas, For the past 150 years, the 15th Amendment served as
9 the primary defense against systemic voter disenfranchisement
10 endured by many over generations, while also becoming an integral
11 component to the establishment and preservation of the Voting
12 Rights Act of 1965; now, therefore, be it

13 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
14 body commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the
15 15th Amendment; and be it further

16 Resolved, That we recognize this historic action that upholds
17 the fundamental, democratic principles cherished by its timeless
18 words.