

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

Reps. Grant, McKinney, Brabec, Neeley, O'Neal, Tyrone Carter, Young, Wilson, Edwards, Scott, Hoskins, Wegela, Rheingans, McFall, Martus, Fitzgerald, Arbit, Price, Byrnes, Breen, Glanville, Coffia, Hope, Mentzer, Rogers, Haadsma, Morse, Skaggs, MacDonell, Andrews and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare February 2024 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

1           Whereas, As a result of the civil rights movement and a  
2 growing awareness of black identity, Black History Month is a time  
3 to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and explore,  
4 understand, and appreciate the identities and cultures across and  
5 within the African diaspora; and

6           Whereas, We pay tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who  
7 organized a national Negro History Week as an initiative to bring  
8 national attention to the contributions of black people throughout  
9 American history, evolving into a month-long celebration of black  
10 progress and power; and

11           Whereas, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black  
12 History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the  
13 opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of  
14 black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history";  
15 and

16           Whereas, Michigan recognizes the injustices that African-  
17 Americans have endured and commends the African-American community  
18 for the continuous pursuit of overcoming those injustices while  
19 changing the course and nature of history. We honor the prominent  
20 leaders and activists who have paved the way for equality and  
21 justice; now, therefore, be it

22           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
23 this legislative body declare February 2024 as Black History Month  
24 in the state of Michigan; and be it further

25           Resolved, That we honor the contributions and sacrifices made  
26 toward building pride in black history and educating all Americans;  
27 and be it further

28           Resolved, That we join other organizations throughout the  
29 state of Michigan and this country to use this occasion to raise

- 1 awareness about the hardships African-Americans have endured,
- 2 celebrate the milestones achieved, and to continue the unrelenting
- 3 pursuit of equality and justice for all.