

House Resolution 529

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, McLeod of the 105th, Stovall of the 74th, Jones of the 53rd, and Beasley-Teague of the 65th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dr. Walter Rodney and the 16th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, and
2 recognizing March 23, 2019, as Dr. Walter Rodney Day at the state capitol; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Rodney was a scholar, historian, educator, Pan-Africanist, and
5 political activist, committed to the struggle for justice and equality, who combined his
6 scholarship with activism to become a voice for the underrepresented and disenfranchised,
7 and whose words and written works, such as *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* and *The*
8 *Groundings with My Brothers*, resonate in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and North
9 America; and

10 WHEREAS, The Walter Rodney Foundation seeks to preserve, advance, and utilize Dr.
11 Rodney's legacy to improve lives and build capacity through scholarship and programs that
12 promote education, health, and human development from a social justice perspective; and

13 WHEREAS, an annual Walter Rodney Symposium is held in Atlanta, Georgia, during the
14 week of his birthday, March 23, to bring together scholars, researchers, activists, students,
15 and the community to discuss contemporary issues and develop new ideas referencing Dr.
16 Rodney's works, ideas, and methodology; and

17 WHEREAS, The Annual Walter Rodney Symposium and The Walter Rodney Foundation
18 are uniquely situated to add important voices to this conversation due to Dr. Rodney's work
19 and legacy in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, The 16th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, "Arts & Culture in Struggle:
21 Pan-African Discussions on History, Movements & Resistance" will examine the continued
22 impact of Walter Rodney's works, including his new posthumous publication, *The Russian*
23 *Revolution: A View from the Third World*, and explore the relationships between visual arts,

24 poetry, music, and culture in understanding our history and our current and future
25 socioeconomic, social justice, and political realities; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Rodney's life and works are particularly relevant to understanding
27 and addressing the inequities we face today in the Global South; and

28 WHEREAS, this is a celebration of the life and works of Toni Cade Bambara, Frantz Fanon,
29 and Walter Rodney, all quintessential scholar-activists, teachers, and writers; the
30 intersectionality of their work resonates in the radical tradition and movements for black
31 power, knowledge, and liberation.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body and District 56 commend The Walter Rodney Foundation and the
34 16th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium for continuing to discuss global issues impacting
35 our communities and hereby recognize Saturday, March 23, 2019, as Dr. Walter Rodney Day
36 at the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to The
39 Walter Rodney Foundation, the public, and the press.