



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

*Introduced by: Smith V, Summers, Harris D, Porter,
Bartlett, Brown C, Pryor, Shackelford*

A HOUSE RESOLUTION celebrating Black History Month.

Whereas, Black history has been celebrated by Americans each year since 1926, first as Negro History Week and later as Black History Month;

Whereas, Blacks have been in America since colonial times, but it was not until the 20th century that they were represented in history books;

Whereas, The celebration of Black History Month and the study of black history came into being through the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson;

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Whereas, Dr. Woodson's parents were former slaves, and he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines;

Whereas, Dr. Woodson enrolled in high school at age 20, graduated within two years, and went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University;

Whereas, Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find that history books largely ignored the black American population and mentioned blacks only in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time;

Whereas, Dr. Woodson began the task of writing black Americans into the nation's history;

Whereas, Through the efforts of Dr. Woodson, several organizations were established as a way to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history, including the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, founded in 1915 (now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History), the Journal of Negro History (now known as the Journal of African American History), and, in 1926, the establishment of Negro History Week;

Whereas, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln;

Whereas, Black History Month, celebrated in February, acknowledges the achievements of blacks in the military, arts, civil rights, education, entertainment, history, law, literature, medicine, music, politics, science, sports, and other areas;

Whereas, The goal of Black History Month is to bridge the gap created by American history's failure to accurately acknowledge, portray, and record the contributions and inventions of blacks; and

Whereas, Black Americans reflect a legacy of courage and



dedication that has helped to guide our nation's success and prosperity: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
- 2 acknowledges the many contributions and accomplishments of black
- 3 Americans throughout the history of the United States and Indiana.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges
- 5 entities and organizations to celebrate Black History Month.

