

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 90

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON JR.

5539H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, during the period beginning late in the 15th century through the 19th  
2 century, millions of persons of African origin were enslaved and brought to the Western  
3 Hemisphere, including the United States of America, and between 20 to 50 percent of enslaved  
4 Africans died during their journey to the Western Hemisphere; and

5

6           **WHEREAS**, the enslavement of Africans and their descendants was part of a concerted  
7 effort of physical and psychological terrorism that deprived people of African descent of the  
8 opportunity to preserve many of their social, religious, political, and other customs; and

9

10           **WHEREAS**, the vestiges of slavery in this country continued with the legalization of  
11 second-class citizenship status for African-Americans through Jim Crow laws, segregation, and  
12 other similar practices; and

13

14           **WHEREAS**, the legacy of slavery has pervaded the fabric of our society and, in spite of  
15 these events, there are endless examples of the triumphs of African-Americans and their  
16 significant contributions to the development of this country; and

17

18           **WHEREAS**, all people should know of and remember the human carnage and  
19 dehumanizing atrocities committed during the period of the African slave trade and slavery in  
20 America and of the vestiges of slavery in this country; and

21

22           **WHEREAS**, it is in fact vital to educate our citizens on these events, the legacy of  
23 slavery, the sad history of racism in this country, and on the principles of human rights and  
24 dignity in a civilized society; and

25

26           **WHEREAS**, it is the policy of this state that the history of the African slave trade,  
27 slavery in America, the depth of their impact on our society, and the triumphs of  
28 African-Americans and their significant contributions to the development of this country is the  
29 proper concern of all people, particularly students enrolled in the schools of this state; and

30

31           **WHEREAS**, the people of this state recognize the uniqueness of Missouri's history as  
32 being instrumental in the unfolding of U.S. Black history; and

33

34           **WHEREAS**, only 8 percent of high school seniors surveyed by the Southern Poverty  
35 Law Center's Teaching Hard History American Slavery Report can identify slavery as the central  
36 cause of the Civil War; and

37

38           **WHEREAS**, the General Assembly realizes the academic and social advantages to  
39 students of a heightened knowledge of the integral role of African-Americans in the history and  
40 heritage of our country and state:

41

42           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
43 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
44 concurring therein, hereby:

45

46           (1) Encourage public elementary, middle, and high schools in Missouri to:

47           (a) Celebrate Black History Month; and

48           (b) Infuse Black history perspectives into lesson plans throughout the school year;

49           (2) Urge teachers to:

50           (a) Engage in teacher professional development activities that seek to improve K-12  
51 Black history education;

52 (b) Build networks of people and organizations committed to Black history education;  
53 and

54 (c) Take advantage of the resources available in this state such as:

55 a. The Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education on the Columbia campus of the  
56 University of Missouri;

57 b. The Missouri Council for Social Studies;

58 c. The Missouri Humanities Council;

59 d. The Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City;

60 e. The George Washington Carver National Park;

61 f. The Old Courthouse in St. Louis; and

62 g. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; and

63 (3) Declare that the purpose of the courses above is to promote the fact that when  
64 students are taught the truth about themselves and others, respect, pride, and self-esteem follow,  
65 that this mutual respect among all students and teachers builds racial harmony and  
66 understanding, and that the result is an environment that increases student achievement; and

67

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
69 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each  
70 school district in this state .

✓