

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. C. R. No. 35

Representative Ingram

**Cosponsors: Representatives Kent, Russo, Miranda, Crossman, Smith, K.,
Crawley, West**

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To encourage representation of African Americans on the 1
boards and in senior management of Ohio companies and 2
institutions. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Board diversity is imperative for the success of 4
every organization today; and 5

WHEREAS, Research has shown that board diversity leads to a 6
more diverse workforce, and that a heterogeneous workforce 7
yields more innovation and better performance than a homogeneous 8
one does; and 9

WHEREAS, Diverse boards better understand the needs of the 10
clients and communities they serve; and 11

WHEREAS, James S. Turley, board member of Citigroup Inc., 12
Northrop Grumman Corporation, Emerson Electric Co., and Intrexon 13
Corporation has stated that "the long-term success of a company 14
will be impacted by the strength of interaction, credible 15
challenge, and oversight that takes place in the boardroom. A 16
strong and diverse board will be a competitive advantage"; and 17

WHEREAS, According to the Alliance for Board Diversity, an organization that has been striving to increase the representation of women and minorities on corporate boards since 2004, progress has been painfully slow; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 study by the Alliance for Board Diversity reports that with Caucasian/white people holding more than 80% of the total number of board seats in Fortune 500 companies, in each industry there is an opportunity to increase diversity in the boardroom; and

WHEREAS, According to research by the multimedia company Black Enterprise, in 2019, 187 S&P 500 companies, or 37%, did not have a single black board member; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Joyce Beatty has stated that "leaders set the tone" and that her conversations with corporate heads continue to reveal many companies with nonexistent diversity and "no plan to get there," prompting the need for legislative initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has a significant stake in promoting equitable and diverse representation in the public, private, and nonprofit leadership ranks of Ohio companies, institutions, and state and local government; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge all private and public companies and institutions doing business in this state to commit to increase the representation of African Americans on their boards of directors and in senior management positions and to set and publish goals by which to measure their progress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor of Ohio and the news media of Ohio.