

SENATE RESOLUTION

8671

By Senators Lovick, Cleveland, Valdez, Rivers, Keiser, Van De Wege, Kuderer, Holy, Wellman, Nobles, Hasegawa, Trudeau, Mullet, Saldaña, Hunt, Shewmake, Pedersen, Robinson, Boehnke, Kauffman, Lovelett, Fortunato, and Salomon

1 WHEREAS, The enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 stands as
2 one of the most important legislative achievements in American
3 history and a defining milestone of our nation's ongoing fight for
4 racial justice and equity; and

5 WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act,
6 today we commemorate this law which has transformed the fabric of our
7 nation by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color,
8 religion, sex, or national origin, and facilitated the desegregation
9 of schools and other public facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, The progress of civil rights and racial justice since
11 the Act's passage has been a journey of resilience, inviting us to
12 celebrate the successes and honor the hardships and sacrifices that
13 have paved the way to a more just society; and

14 WHEREAS, Acknowledging the ongoing fight for civil rights allows
15 us to honor the leaders and citizens whose sacrifice has created
16 significant progress in the pursuit of justice, while recognizing
17 that there is more work ahead on the road towards a more racially
18 just United States of America; and

19 WHEREAS, Confronted with bigotry, fear, and hatred, the bravery
20 of these champions for civil rights stirred our Nation's moral
21 conscience; and

22 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act has demonstrated the profound
23 ability of legislation to foster lasting change, paving the way for

1 further laws that strengthened voting rights and established fair
2 housing standards for all Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, Building on the remarkable achievements of figures like
4 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman John Lewis, Justice Thurgood
5 Marshall, and Rosa Parks, the journey towards fully securing life,
6 liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for every individual continues,
7 underscoring the necessity of ongoing efforts to achieve our ideals
8 of equality and justice for all; and

9 WHEREAS, During the inauguration of the Smithsonian National
10 Museum of African American History and Culture in September 2016,
11 former President George W. Bush remarked, "A great nation does not
12 hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."; and

13 WHEREAS, The passage of the Civil Rights Act represented a
14 turning point in the United States' history of racism and bigotry,
15 and illuminated the path forward in our ongoing quest for justice and
16 equality, highlighting the importance of vigilance, advocacy, and
17 proactive legislative efforts to forge a society that reflects our
18 highest ideals of fairness and inclusivity; and

19 WHEREAS, Civil rights are not assumed freedoms but require
20 continued solidarity and participation in the democratic process,
21 that with unwavering resolve and a collective aim, those devoted to
22 their country can create change;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate, recognizing the
24 transformative significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, commit
25 to celebrating its enduring legacy by urging all citizens of our
26 state to stand firm in the fight against racism in all its forms and
27 to work diligently towards crafting a society where every person is
28 afforded equality, dignity, and the right to fair treatment under the
29 law, thus advancing our collective journey toward a more just and
30 inclusive union.

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