HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4655, by Representatives Jinkins, Wilcox, Appleton, Barkis, Bergquist, Blake, Boehnke, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, DeBolt, Dent, Doglio, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gildon, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hansen, Harris, Hoff, Hudgins, Irwin, Jenkin, J. Johnson, Kilduff, Kirby, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, Mead, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Pellicciotti, Peterson, Pettigrew, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robinson, Rude, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Slatter, Smith, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Van Werven, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated in Washington state and around the nation due to the efforts of Dr. Carter Woodson, who in 1926 advocated that we set aside a special period in February to recognize the history, heritage, and achievements of black people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose February to celebrate black history to honor the birth month of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, In 1776, those founding the United States stated they were dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, Much of the history of black Americans can be viewed through the lens of the long, hard struggle to reconcile the reality of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation with the words and ideals written in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, In the face of persistent and entrenched injustice and inequality, countless men and women of good will came together to fight to improve our imperfect union and bring it closer to the ideals of equality and opportunity for all; and

p. 1 HR 4655

1	WHEREAS, We recognize the vision and ideas of writers like Maya
2	Angelou, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, and Ralph Ellison; and
3	WHEREAS, We honor the vision and resolve of national leaders such
4	as Shirley Chisholm and Elijah Cummings, along with local leaders
5	such as Thelma Jackson of Tacoma and Norm Rice, the first black
6	American mayor of Seattle; and
7	WHEREAS, In 2008, Barack Obama became the first black American to
8	serve as President of the United States; and
9	WHEREAS, In 2019, Representative John Lovick became Acting
10	Speaker of the House of Representatives and became the first black
11	American to serve as Speaker in the history of Washington, which
12	achieved statehood in 1889;
13	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
14	recognize the contributions of black men and women to our
15	communities, cities, military, the state of Washington, and the
16	United States of America; and
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
18	encourage the celebration of Black History Month in our schools and
19	universities, and in our communities and neighborhoods, to foster a
20	better understanding of that history and its significance here in
21	Washington and throughout this nation.
22	
23	I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
24	Resolution 4655 adopted by the House of Representatives
25	February 3, 2020
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk

31

p. 2 HR 4655