

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4602, by Representatives Jinkins, Stokesbary, Abbarno, Abell, Alvarado, Barkis, Barnard, Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Burnett, Caldier, Callan, Chase, Connors, Corry, Cortes, Couture, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Entenman, Eslick, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Ley, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, McEntire, Mena, Mendoza, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Penner, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reed, Reeves, Richards, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Schmick, Schmidt, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Stonier, Street, Stuebe, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Timmons, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Waters, Wylie, and Ybarra

1 WHEREAS, Today, we join with people in every corner of the great
2 state of Washington and throughout the United States of America to
3 honor the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King,
4 Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. King was born on January 15th, 1929, in Atlanta,
6 Georgia, and on June 18th, 1953, he and Coretta Scott were married in
7 Marion, Alabama; and

8 WHEREAS, He dedicated his life's work to gain civil and economic
9 rights for all, Dr. King was not naive about the dark times our
10 country was going through, with his personal experiences of being
11 beaten, imprisoned, and murdered, illustrating the realities of being
12 a Black civil rights leader; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. King knew that the laws and enforcement of those
14 laws would not offer protection, and understood the importance of
15 activists and communities of color needing to protect themselves from
16 state sanctioned violence and persecution; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. King responded with hope and love, as only love can
18 defeat hate, imploring our country to shine a light during dark times
19 to reveal inconvenient truths and take direct action to make real
20 change; and

21 WHEREAS, We remember Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail,
22 which includes the words "Nonviolent direct action seeks to create
23 such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community

1 that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the
2 issue"; and

3 WHEREAS, People all around the world still use his nonviolent
4 philosophy as a guide to make lasting changes, following the words of
5 Dr. King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"; and

6 WHEREAS, His belief in nonviolence was not an invocation to
7 silence or tolerance, but a call for strategic, direct action
8 intended to target injustice and inequity, particularly toward Black
9 Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, His belief of equality and opportunity for all to
11 achieve racial justice, extended to the necessity of educational and
12 economic justice for all people and alleviation of the afflictions of
13 poverty; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. King propelled the truths of segregation and racial
15 injustice to the forefront of American conversation at dinner tables
16 across the country, helping to bring an end to unjust laws, and
17 fulfilling the promise of a democracy for every American; and

18 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act
19 of 1965 became law thanks to the sacrifices of Dr. King and other
20 activists; and

21 WHEREAS, As a country, we continue to strive toward equality,
22 seeing the first Black, Asian, and woman Vice President, and the
23 first Black person to hold statewide executive office as Attorney
24 General in the state of Washington; and

25 WHEREAS, Justice Smith served as the first Black man on our state
26 Supreme Court, and we now have the first Black woman serving on our
27 state Supreme Court, along with a historic number of Black
28 legislators at 13 in the House and Senate, the largest legislative
29 Black caucus in the western United States; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. King's work is not finished, with the American dream
31 still unfulfilled for too many Americans, including Native, Black,
32 Asian, Hispanic, or White, whether middle class or working class, as
33 we have not yet lived up to the creed that all are created equal; and

34 WHEREAS, We remember Dr. King's steadfast commitment to the
35 ideals of impartiality and opportunity for all in the face of
36 tyranny, cruelty, and mistreatment by those in power, and most
37 importantly his call for direct action to create the tension needed
38 to force communities to confront and address these issues; and

1 WHEREAS, He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the youngest
2 man to ever be selected for this extraordinary honor; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite Dr. King's assassination on April 4th, 1968, his
4 legacy of compassion and call for nonviolent direct action live on
5 today;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
7 recognize the importance of the life of Dr. King and exalt his
8 dedicated work to embrace the ideals of equity and justice for all
9 people.

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11 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
12 Resolution 4602 adopted by the House of Representatives
13 January 20, 2025
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk