

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4620, by Representative Donaghy

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 100 years ago, in 1926, Dr. Carter Woodson
2 advocated that we set aside a special period in February to recognize
3 the history, heritage, and achievements of Black people in the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, In the bicentennial year of 1976, 50 years after Woodson
6 gave birth to the idea, President Gerald Ford expanded the period
7 from a weeklong observance to the entire month of February, urging
8 all Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often
9 neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of
10 endeavor throughout our history"; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, in 2025, these types of observances recognizing
12 the contributions and histories of people from a variety of groups
13 and communities are critical to ensure that their histories are no
14 longer obscured, hidden, silenced, or erased; and

15 WHEREAS, The Black History Month 2025 theme, "African Americans
16 and Labor," reflects on the relationship between Black people's work
17 and their workplaces; and

18 WHEREAS, This country was built and enriched by hundreds of years
19 of free, forced labor from Black people during slavery; and

20 WHEREAS, Black people have patriotically fought for this country
21 in every war since its founding, even without full citizenship; and

22 WHEREAS, Black people often had their work stolen or others have
23 profited from it without credit; and

1 WHEREAS, Black people's labor, and their allies', was critical to
2 the expansion of the right to vote, access to a quality education,
3 safe housing, and fair wages for all people; and

4 WHEREAS, The struggle of Black people in this country is one that
5 seeks for all people to be rewarded based on their hard work and
6 merit and ability, rather than judged and held back because of an
7 immutable characteristic; and

8 WHEREAS, The fight for inclusion, justice, and equity in all
9 aspects of American life still continues today; and

10 WHEREAS, Black History Month is an opportunity to learn about,
11 thank, and be inspired by all those who came before us and believed
12 in the promise of the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of
13 happiness and have never given up on that promise and have worked for
14 centuries to achieve it; and

15 WHEREAS, We can reflect on the contributions of Black labor
16 leaders who have fought for the rights of all workers here in
17 Washington State, including Tyree Scott, Jacquie Jones-Walsh,
18 Frederick Simmons, and many others, including those who continue to
19 lead the labor movement across our state today; and

20 WHEREAS, Black culture is American culture, Black history is
21 American history, and Black history is happening right now; and

22 WHEREAS, The Washington Legislature can be proud to have Black
23 representation since its first session, and today has the largest
24 legislative Black caucus on the West Coast;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
26 of Representatives hereby honor and celebrate Black History Month and
27 recognize the legacy and innumerable contributions of Black Americans
28 to our communities, the state of Washington, and the United States of
29 America, not only in February but throughout the whole year; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of
31 Representatives encourages the celebration of Black History Month in
32 our schools and universities, and in our communities and
33 neighborhoods, to foster a better understanding of that history and
34 its significance here in Washington and throughout this great nation.
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36 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
37 Resolution 4620 adopted by the House of Representatives

38 February 20, 2025

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk