

SENATE RESOLUTION

8605

By Senators Nobles, Bateman, Boehnke, Braun, Chapman, Christian, Cleveland, Conway, Cortes, Dhingra, Frame, Gildon, Goehner, Hansen, Harris, Hasegawa, Holy, Kauffman, King, Krishnadasan, Lias, Lovelett, Lovick, MacEwen, McCune, Muzzall, Orwall, Pedersen, Ramos, Riccelli, Robinson, Saldaña, Schoesler, Shewmake, Short, Slatter, Stanford, Torres, Trudeau, Valdez, Wagoner, Warnick, and J. Wilson

1 WHEREAS, Today, the third Monday in January, we remember and
2 honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a visionary
3 leader and tireless advocate for justice, who devoted his life to
4 breaking down barriers of inequality and inspiring generations to
5 build a more inclusive and compassionate world; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. King's courage and steadfast commitment to
7 nonviolent resistance led to transformative victories, including the
8 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which
9 strengthened the foundation of justice and fairness in our nation;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. King's eloquent words, as captured in iconic
12 speeches like "I Have a Dream" and "Letter from Birmingham Jail,"
13 continue to uplift and inspire us to confront injustice, envisioning
14 a future of equality and hope, reminding us that "The arc of the
15 moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice"; and

16 WHEREAS, Through his leadership, Dr. King united millions in the
17 fight against hatred and oppression, showing the extraordinary power
18 of collective action rooted in love, dignity, and resolve; and

19 WHEREAS, The establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a
20 federal holiday in 1983, achieved after 15 years of determined
21 advocacy by leaders such as Coretta Scott King and the Congressional
22 Black Caucus, stands as a powerful testament to the enduring strength
23 of community and the belief that progress is always possible. The

1 holiday was further embraced nationwide when recognized by all
2 50 states 17 years later, highlighting a shared commitment to
3 honoring Dr. King's impact; and

4 WHEREAS, Observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day inspires
5 reflection on the strides we have made toward equality and
6 renews our commitment to creating a society that values justice
7 and opportunity for everyone; and

8 WHEREAS, Washington state continues to champion the
9 principles Dr. King fought for, striving to build communities
10 where equity, inclusion, and human dignity prevail;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate
12 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by recognizing his transformative
13 contributions to the civil rights movement and his powerful
14 message of equality, justice, and hope; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all
16 Washingtonians to honor Dr. King by taking actionable steps to
17 address inequality, foster unity, and build a future where
18 everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

19 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
20 do hereby certify that this is a true and
21 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8605,
22 adopted by the Senate
23 January 20, 2025

24 SARAH BANNISTER
25 Secretary of the Senate