



SENATE RESOLUTION 21-004

BY SENATOR(S) Coleman and Fields, Buckner, Priola, Scott, Hisey, Lundeen, Holbert, Gardner, Cooke, Smallwood, Bridges, Fenberg, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Rodriguez, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Kirkmeyer, Liston, Moreno, Pettersen, Rankin, Simpson, Sonnenberg, Garcia.

CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTHDAY
OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948, graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951, and received a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's faith, resiliency, and commitment to justice became known worldwide through his speeches, writings, and actions; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King declared that the moral responsibility to aid the oppressed did not stop at the edge of his street, town, or state when he wrote, "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King withstood attacks on his home and family, among numerous other threats and setbacks, standing firm in his conviction that although the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends towards justice; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, a

13-month protest beginning in 1955, against the segregated city bus lines; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery bus boycott led to the integration of the Montgomery city bus system and is widely credited as the beginning of the civil rights movement in America; and

WHEREAS, In 1957, Rev. Dr. King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide leadership for the burgeoning civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Between 1957 and 1968, Rev. Dr. King spoke more than 2,500 times, wrote 5 books as well as numerous articles, led protests, helped register African American voters, was arrested more than 20 times, was awarded 5 honorary degrees, was named Man of the Year by Time magazine, and became the symbolic leader of the African American community as well as a world figure; and

WHEREAS, On August 28, 1963, Rev. Dr. King directed the March on Washington, wherein more than 200,000 Americans gathered in the name of equality and civil rights and which culminated in Rev. Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech; and

WHEREAS, The leadership of Rev. Dr. King was instrumental in bringing about landmark legislation, such as the "Civil Rights Act of 1964", which prohibited segregation in public accommodations and facilities and banned discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, and the "Voting Rights Act of 1965", which eliminated remaining legal barriers to voting for disenfranchised African American voters; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Rev. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his tireless and selfless work in the pursuit of justice for African Americans and other oppressed people in America; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's 13 years of nonviolent leadership ended abruptly and tragically when, on April 4, 1968, he was assassinated while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's life and work continue to echo in our

lives as we strive to reach the lofty goal he set when he said, "Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Colorado was championed by Representative Wilma Webb, who sponsored the legislation creating the holiday, and on April 4, 1985, Colorado Governor Dick Lamm signed the bill into law; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's enactment of the holiday and the annual Marade -- a merging of the words "march" and "parade" -- predated the federal holiday designation, and the first celebration in Colorado was on January 20, 1986; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's birthday is a federal holiday in the United States and a state holiday in the state of Colorado, which is celebrated each year on the third Monday in January; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, January 18, 2021, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Rev. Dr. King's holiday; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Senate, hereby encourage appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities to commemorate the federal and state legal holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., throughout all cities, towns, counties, school districts, and local governments within Colorado.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, Honorable Governor Jared Polis, the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the members of Colorado's congressional delegation: Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse, Lauren Boebert, Ken Buck, Doug Lamborn, Jason Crow, and Ed Perlmutter.

Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
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