

2021 South Dakota Legislature  
**House Concurrent Resolution  
6005**

**AMENDMENT HCR6005C FOR THE INTRODUCED BILL**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Celebrating Black History Month.**

2 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of African Americans throughout this country's history  
3 have been abundant, significant, and far-reaching, and have helped shape this country into  
4 an exceptional nation of unprecedented opportunity and achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, the countless contributions by African Americans have been varied and diverse,  
6 as well as indispensable and inspiring, and have influenced politics, religion, education,  
7 science, research, business, entrepreneurship, and the military, among others; and

8 WHEREAS, many important and indisputable facts from our history have been  
9 underemphasized and overlooked; and

10 WHEREAS, the first Africans were originally brought to North America unwillingly, having  
11 been conquered, captured, and sold by other African tribes and Muslim slave-catchers to the  
12 Dutch and other traders journeying to America; and

13 WHEREAS, the first African slaves in North America were brought by the Spanish to their  
14 colonies in the Florida region in 1565; and

15 WHEREAS, the first African slaves in a North American English colony arrived in Virginia  
16 in 1619, but became indentured servants instead of remaining slaves, earning their freedom,  
17 with the state giving them their own land after a set number of years; and

18 WHEREAS, the first documented occasion of legalized black chattel slavery in the English  
19 colonies of America did not occur until 1651, in Virginia, when free African American, Anthony  
20 Johnson, sued and won the right to own another African American for life; and

1 WHEREAS, a slave ship arrived in 1646, in New England, whereupon the slaves were freed,  
2 and the slave owners imprisoned, being charged with the capital crime of man-stealing; and

3 WHEREAS, the two English colonies of Virginia and Massachusetts began a dual track for  
4 African Americans, with much slavery and oppression in the South and much freedom and  
5 opportunity in the North, including the early right to vote and hold office; and

6 WHEREAS, African Americans contributed much to this country's rich colonial history,  
7 including political officials such as Mathias DeSouza, who was elected to office in 1641;  
8 Wentworth Cheswill, who was elected to office in 1768 and reelected for the next 49 years to  
9 eight different political offices; and Thomas Hercules, who was elected to office in 1793; and

10 WHEREAS, one of the first casualties of the movement for Independence was black patriot  
11 Crispus Attucks, who was shot by British soldiers during the Boston Massacre; and

12 WHEREAS, notable black soldiers in the War for Independence included James Armistead,  
13 Jack Sisson, Prince Whipple, Peter Salem, Salem Poor, Lemuel Haynes, Richard Allen, Prince  
14 Estabrook, Crispus Attucks, Jordan Freeman, Oliver Cromwell, Brister Baker, and numerous  
15 others; and

16 WHEREAS, during the War for Independence, blacks and whites served together, in  
17 integrated units, in virtually every battle of the war and African Americans routinely reenlisted,  
18 voluntarily serving an average of nine times longer than white soldiers; and

19 WHEREAS, influential black colonial clergymen included Richard Allen, the founder of this  
20 country's first black denomination; Absalom Jones, the first black clergyman to be ordained  
21 in a major Christian denomination; Lemuel Haynes, the first black American to receive a  
22 degree in higher education and to have a sermon published, while pastoring multiple white  
23 churches; and Harry Hoosier, credited as being the namesake of the Hoosier state - Indiana;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, African Americans also contributed to this country's history, well beyond the  
26 colonial era and the country's founding; and

27 WHEREAS, throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, there were many distinguished African  
28 American entrepreneurs and business leaders, including Paul Cuffe, Stephen Smith, Clara  
29 Brown, Robert Gordon, Bridget Mason, and Charles Patterson; and

1 WHEREAS, notable 19th century black soldiers included Robert Smalls, the first black  
2 United States naval captain and Major General in the South Carolina militia and William  
3 Carney, Christian Fleetwood, Alfred Hilton, Charles Veal, and Alexander Kelly—five of the  
4 seven black Americans who received the medal of honor for protecting this country's flag—  
5 with many others receiving that medal for other acts of courage; and

6 WHEREAS, in the 19th century, influential African Americans included federal political  
7 leaders such as Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first black United States Senator; Blanche Kelso  
8 Bruce, the second black United States Senator and the first black man to be nominated for  
9 Vice President and to have his name printed on federal currency; and Joseph Hayne Rainey,  
10 the first black man to preside over the United States House of Representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, distinguished black ministers and civil rights advocates who should be honored,  
12 include Frederick Douglass, Henry Highland Garnet, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman,  
13 and Sojourner Truth, and more recently Dr. Martin Luther King Jr; and

14 WHEREAS, many critics today wrongly assert that the United States Constitution was a  
15 pro-slavery document, pointing to the three-fifths clause and claiming the Constitution states  
16 that blacks are only three-fifths of a person; and

17 WHEREAS, famous black clergyman and abolitionist Frederick Douglass had been told this  
18 and accepted that the Constitution was a pro-slavery document, until he read it for himself,  
19 together with the writings of those men who actually wrote the document; and

20 WHEREAS, after personal examination, Frederick Douglass concluded that the Constitution  
21 was an anti-slavery document and declared, "I defy the presentation of a single pro-slavery  
22 clause in it" and that, to the contrary, "it will be found to contain certain principles and  
23 purposes entirely hostile to the existence of slavery"; and

24 WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass understood that the three-fifths clause dealt only with  
25 representation and not the worth of any individual, regardless of color; and

26 WHEREAS, many today overlook or ignore this country's positive record on race and  
27 slavery; and

28 WHEREAS, by 1804, every northern state had passed laws for the abolition of slavery;  
29 and

1        WHEREAS, in 1807, the United States became the first nation in the world to sign a law  
2 banning the slave trade, with Great Britain doing so shortly thereafter; and while the British  
3 law went into effect two months before that of the United States, it contained major loopholes,  
4 which the United States law did not, causing the United States to be the first nation in the  
5 world with an immediate ban on the slave trade; and

6        WHEREAS, beginning in 1819, the United States dispatched and maintained a naval  
7 presence off the coast of Africa to prevent other nations from taking slaves out of Africa, and  
8 United States naval vessels intercepted and turned back numerous ships from other countries,  
9 continuing this effort until the outbreak of the Civil War, when those ships were called home  
10 to fight the southern slave-holding Confederacy; and

11        WHEREAS, the United States was not a major world leader in the African slave trade; for  
12 of the 12.7 million Africans involuntarily removed from Africa and sold into slavery from 1501-  
13 1875, 46 percent were made slaves in Portuguese holdings, 26 percent in English holdings,  
14 11 percent in French holdings, 8 percent in Spanish holdings, and 4 percent in Dutch holdings,  
15 while only 2.4 percent were brought to the United States; and

16        ~~WHEREAS, of the nearly 200 nations in the world today, 94 still have not criminalized~~  
17 ~~slavery or the slave trade; and~~

18        ~~WHEREAS, there are currently 40 million slaves in the world—three times more than were~~  
19 ~~taken in the entire 400 year history of the transatlantic African slave trade; and~~

20        ~~WHEREAS, the United States is ranked as one of the top nations in the world when it~~  
21 ~~comes to fighting slavery, the slave trade, and human trafficking; and~~

22        WHEREAS, despite early progress and work in advancing racial freedom and equality,  
23 those issues have become more political and polarizing, with many leaders directly opposing  
24 freedom and racial equality; and

25        ~~WHEREAS, one example is a 1789 law that prohibited slavery in the federal territories but~~  
26 ~~was reversed, in 1820, when Democrats passed the Missouri Compromise; and~~

27        WHEREAS, in 1850, the Democrat-controlled Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law,  
28 denying even minimal constitutional protections to accused slaves and allowing slave-hunters  
29 to take blacks from the North to slavery in the South; and

1        WHEREAS, in 1854, the Democrat-controlled Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act,  
2 legally allowing the extension of slavery all the way north, to Canada, through many formerly  
3 anti-slavery territories; and

4        WHEREAS, in May of 1854, following the passage of pro-slavery laws in Congress, a  
5 number of anti-slavery Democrats joined with anti-slavery members of Congress to form the  
6 Republican Party, to fight slavery and secure equal civil rights for black Americans; and

7        WHEREAS, in 1856, Republicans issued their first national platform, affirming the call, not  
8 only for the end of slavery, but also for equality and civil rights; and

9        WHEREAS, in 1857, the majority Democrat United States Supreme Court delivered the  
10 Dred Scott decision, declaring that blacks were not persons, but property, that blacks had no  
11 rights, and that Congress could not ban slavery anywhere; and

12        WHEREAS, the 1860 Democrat platform openly supported slavery and Democrats gave  
13 out a copy of the Dred Scott decision, along with their platform, to show they agreed with  
14 that Court's decision; and

15        WHEREAS, in the 1860 presidential election, anti-slavery candidate Abraham Lincoln  
16 represented the Republican Party, and the national Democrat vote was split between three  
17 pro-slavery candidates—Stephen Douglas of Illinois, John Breckenridge of Kentucky, and John  
18 Bell of Tennessee—with Lincoln receiving 39 percent of the national popular vote and 60  
19 percent of the electoral votes, and the pro-slavery Democrats receiving 61 percent of the  
20 popular vote and 40 percent of the electoral votes, after which Abraham Lincoln became  
21 president; and

22        WHEREAS, Republicans not only won the presidency but also gained control of the United  
23 States House and Senate, ~~after the majority of pro-slavery Democrats resigned and seceded,~~  
24 and ~~they~~ began passing anti-slavery and civil rights laws; and

25        WHEREAS, in 1865, ~~when~~ the 13th Amendment was passed to abolish slavery, ~~only 21~~  
26 ~~percent of Democrats in Congress voted to end slavery;~~ and

27        WHEREAS, on the same day that Congress abolished slavery, ~~Republican Senator Charles~~  
28 ~~Sumner took a~~ black American attorney—and teacher, dentist, and physician—John Rock ~~to~~  
29 ~~the United States Supreme Court, where he,~~ became the first black American to be admitted  
30 to the ~~United States~~ Supreme Court bar; and

1        WHEREAS, after the passage of the 13th Amendment, ~~Republicans asked~~ black pastor,  
2 Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, a former slave, ~~was asked~~ to preach a sermon commemorating  
3 the end of slavery at the church service held every Sunday in the Hall of the House of  
4 Representatives inside the United States Capitol; and

5        WHEREAS, the Rev. Garnet preached his sermon on Sunday, February 12, 1865, recalling:  
6 "What is slavery? Too well do I know what it is . . . . I was born among the cherished  
7 institutions of slavery. My earliest recollections of parents, friends, and the home of my  
8 childhood are clouded with its wrongs. The first sight that met my eyes was my Christian  
9 mother enslaved"; and

10       WHEREAS, by this sermon, Garnet became the first black American officially to speak in  
11 the halls of Congress; and

12       WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment, securing civil rights for black Americans ~~was passed,~~  
13 ~~without a single Democrat vote of support,~~ and the 15th Amendment,—securing voting  
14 rights—~~was then were~~ passed, ~~also without Democrat with only Republican~~ support; and

15       WHEREAS, when black Americans in southern states received civil rights, including the  
16 right to vote, they promptly elected state Republican Legislatures across the South, which  
17 moved quickly to protect voting rights for African Americans, prohibit segregation, and open  
18 public education, public transportation, and state police, schools, and other institutions to  
19 black Americans; and

20       WHEREAS, black Americans became active legislators in the South, with the first 42 blacks  
21 elected to the state Legislature in Texas being Republicans, along with the first 127 black  
22 legislators in Louisiana, the first 103 in Alabama, the first 112 in Mississippi, the first 190 in  
23 South Carolina, the first 46 in Virginia, the first 30 in Florida, the first 30 in North Carolina,  
24 the first 41 in Georgia; and

25       WHEREAS, the first 23 black legislators elected to the United States Congress were  
26 Republicans, and were largely from the southern ~~Democrat~~ states, where 13 of them had  
27 been slaves; and

28       WHEREAS, in 1866, Democrats began to retaliate against black advancement in the  
29 southern states, not only by the manipulation of election laws in the South, but also by  
30 physical violence—as in Louisiana, where 40 black and 20 white Republicans were killed, with  
31 150 more wounded, at the Republican Party convention; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1866, Democrats openly acknowledged in congressional hearings that they  
2 formed the Ku Klux Klan, as a political affiliate, to help regain Democrat control in elections;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the national leader and Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan was a prominent  
5 Democrat leader and former Confederate General—Nathan Bedford Forest—an honored  
6 member of the Democrat National Convention of 1868; and

7 WHEREAS, the Ku Klux Klan reign of violence often targeted and lynched not only blacks,  
8 but also white Republicans, with 3,345 blacks and 1,297 whites being lynched between 1882  
9 and 1964; and

10 WHEREAS, by 1875, ~~Republicans had successfully passed~~ almost two dozen civil rights  
11 laws ~~were passed~~ to secure equality and full civil rights; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1876, Democrats regained control of the United States House and not only  
13 successfully blocked further civil rights progress, but began repealing existing civil rights laws  
14 so that it would be another 89 years before the next federal civil rights law was passed; and

15 WHEREAS, Democrats also regained control of southern state legislatures, becoming  
16 known as the "solid Democrat South"; and

17 WHEREAS, Democrats succeeded in barring southern blacks from federal elected offices  
18 for an additional 70 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Democrats did not elect their first black American to the United States House  
20 until 1935, ~~nearly 65 years after Republicans had done so,~~ and no black Democrats from the  
21 South were elected to Congress until 1973, more than a century after Republicans, and that  
22 1973 election occurred only after the United States Supreme Court struck down the  
23 gerrymandered district lines that Democrat state legislators had drawn to keep blacks from  
24 being elected to federal office; and

25 WHEREAS, Democrats strongly opposed equal education for all students, as evidenced by  
26 87 percent of congressional Democrats voting against the 1872 civil rights education bill, and  
27 burned down many schools and churches in which black children were being taught, thereby  
28 causing segregated, inferior, and dilapidated schools to become the norm for black children  
29 in the southern states under Democrat control; and

1        WHEREAS, in the 1954 case of Brown v. Board of Education, the United States Supreme  
2 Court struck down mandatory state segregation laws in education, thereby reinstating the  
3 anti-segregation standard that ~~Republicans~~ had ~~been~~ passed nearly 75 years earlier, in the  
4 1875 civil rights bill, which had ~~been strongly opposed by Democrats~~ ~~received strong~~  
5 opposition at the time; and

6        WHEREAS, ~~100–99~~ Democrats ~~and two Virginia Republicans~~ in the United States  
7 Congress—19 Senators and ~~81–82~~ Representatives—passed the "Southern Manifesto,"  
8 denouncing the Court's 1954 decision to end segregation; and

9        WHEREAS, although under President Franklin Roosevelt, the Democrat platform for the  
10 first time called for an end to racial discrimination, Democrats in Congress killed every piece  
11 of civil rights legislation introduced in that era; and

12        WHEREAS, when ~~Democrat~~ President Harry S. Truman introduced an aggressive ten-point  
13 civil rights legislative package that included an anti-lynching law, a ban on the poll tax, and  
14 desegregation of the military, Democrats killed all of his proposals, including his proposed  
15 Civil Rights Commission; and

16        WHEREAS, ~~Republican~~ President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued executive orders to  
17 eliminate racial discrimination and segregation in the District of Columbia and federal  
18 agencies, and became the first president to appoint a black American, Frederick Morrow, to  
19 an executive position on the White House staff; and

20        WHEREAS, in 1957, Eisenhower proposed a bold civil rights bill to increase black voting  
21 rights and protections, but it was blocked by Democrat Senator James Eastland, who is  
22 credited with killing every civil rights bill that came before his committee in the 1950s; and

23 ~~—~~ WHEREAS, in 1960, Democrat President John F. Kennedy refused to sign an executive  
24 order to integrate public housing until the violent racial discord in Birmingham in 1963 caused  
25 him to change his mind, after which he began promoting the civil rights bill; and

26        WHEREAS, when ~~Democrat~~ President Lyndon Johnson promoted the 1964 Civil Rights Act,  
27 which he had voted against while serving in the United States Senate, it was halted by  
28 ~~Democrat~~ Senators Robert Byrd and Richard Russell, until Republican Senator Everett Dirksen  
29 was able to move the measure forward, thereby enacting the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and  
30 following it with the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and



1        WHEREAS, it was the Republicans in Congress who made possible the passage of both the  
2 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, for at the time Democrats had 315  
3 members in Congress, holding almost two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate,  
4 needing only 269 votes to pass those bills, but garnering only 198 Democrat votes; and

5 ~~— WHEREAS, Democrats had it completely within their power to pass those landmark civil~~  
6 ~~rights bills but did not, and Republicans overwhelmingly supported the 1964 Civil Rights Act,~~  
7 ~~with 83 percent of Republicans voting for that bill—a percentage of support almost 20 points~~  
8 ~~higher than that of the Democrats; and~~

9        WHEREAS, the most recognizable civil rights leader of that era was the Rev. Martin Luther  
10 King, Jr., a Christian minister who was with President Johnson when the famous civil rights  
11 bill was signed into law; and

12        WHEREAS, the contributions of not only the African Americans noted above but also of  
13 countless others, should also be recognized and honored; and

14        WHEREAS, the story of black heroes, over the past three-and-a-half centuries, needs to  
15 be told and understood by all people today, but is often ignored or rewritten; and

16        WHEREAS, these heroes are not just black heroes, but national heroes, and deserve to be  
17 honored by all people of this country, regardless of race or ethnicity; and

18        WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota is committed to preserving historical literacy and  
19 honoring the names and lives of those who have contributed so much to making the United  
20 States such a remarkable nation among the nations of the world;

21        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Sixth  
22 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
23 urges each resident to become familiar with the names noted in this resolution and to  
24 investigate and understand the truly remarkable achievements of those individuals; and

25        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that South Dakotans celebrate the contributions of all people,  
26 especially those of black heritage, during Black History Month, and express gratitude for  
27 contributions that have spanned generations and will impact many more in the coming years.