

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing February as Black History Month.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who worked in the Kentucky coal mines as a
3 child and was the son of former slaves, enrolled in high school at the age of 20 and went
4 on to graduate from Berea College with a bachelor's degree, received his master's degree
5 from the University of Chicago, and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University where he
6 was one of the first scholars to study African-American history; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Woodson proposed and launched a weeklong celebration
8 of the individuals and occasions having a significant impact on African-American history
9 in America, and has since been known as the "Father of Black History"; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose the month of February to conduct this
11 commemoration because the birthdays of two men whose actions have significantly
12 affected African-Americans in this country are in February – namely Frederick Douglass,
13 the gifted orator, writer, and statesman who was a tireless advocate of the anti-slavery
14 movement, and Abraham Lincoln, a native son of Kentucky who signed the Emancipation
15 Proclamation and is considered to be one of America's greatest presidents; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1976, the commemoration was extended from a weeklong event to
17 the entire month of February; and

18 WHEREAS, during the month of February 2017, across the United States of
19 America and this great Commonwealth, observances are held to increase public
20 awareness of the importance of black history and the contributions that African-
21 Americans have made toward their country; and

22 WHEREAS, not only during the month of February 2017, but throughout the
23 remainder of the year, it is important that we, as brethren, reach out to one another to
24 understand our fellow man in a peaceful and loving way; and

25 WHEREAS, the citizens of this great Commonwealth should recommit themselves
26 to an ideal America where equality and justice will always prevail, and to the principles
27 of love, wisdom, and compassion toward one another;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes the month
5 of February as Black History Month, and urges that the citizens of this Commonwealth be
6 mindful of the history, the culture, and the profound contributions African-Americans
7 have made.

8 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
9 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.