

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1820

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a landmark piece of civil rights legislation in the United States and was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964; and

WHEREAS, The bill was called for by President John F. Kennedy in his civil rights speech of June 11, 1963, in which he asked for legislation "giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public," as well as "greater protection for the right to vote." President Kennedy delivered this speech following a series of peaceful protests from various communities of Americans from different racial and religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Emulating the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the 1964 Act included many provisions: Title I bars unequal application of voter registration requirements; Title II outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin in hotels, motels, restaurants, theaters and all other public accommodations engaged in interstate commerce; Title III prohibits state and municipal governments from denying access to public facilities on grounds of race, color, religion or national origin; Title IV encourages the desegregation of public schools and authorized the U.S. Attorney General to file suits to enforce the act; Title V expanded the Civil Rights Commission established by the earlier Civil Rights Act of 1957 with additional powers, rules and procedures; Title VI prevents discrimination by government agencies that receive federal funds; Title VII prohibits discrimination by certain employers on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin; Title VIII requires compilation of voter registration and voting data in geographic areas specified by the Commission on Civil Rights and includes the Fair Housing Act, which bans discrimination in sale or rental of property; Title IX made it easier to move civil rights cases from state courts to federal courts in order to ensure that civil rights activists would receive fair trials; Title X established the Community Relations Service, tasked with assisting in community disputes involving claims of discrimination; and Title XI imposes criminal penalties for a violation of the other Titles of the Act and gives defendants the right to a jury trial; and

WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, President Johnson's vision for a more just and honorable America contributed to the passing of the Civil Rights Act, the most transformational civil rights legislation since Reconstruction and a crucial step in the realization of America's promise. His vision went far beyond ending racial discrimination, as education, economic opportunity, health care, clean air and water and access to the arts and humanities are inherent civil rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is at the forefront of ending segregation and implementing civil rights for all people, beginning with Kansas entering the Union in 1861 as a free state, under the premise that all men and women are created equal and that every American has the same Constitutional rights. Kansas' history of promoting civil rights also includes the 1954 landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and affirm all of the rights found in the Act, including the right to be free from discrimination in voter registration requirements, public accommodations, public facilities, public schools, employment opportunities and housing; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send three enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Haley, two enrolled copies to Senator Faust-Goudeau and one enrolled copy to Senator Hensley.

Senate Resolution No. 1820 was sponsored by Senators Haley, Faust-Goudeau and Hensley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*