

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-0733.01 Ashley Athey x2291

SR21-004

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Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 21-004

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King withstood attacks on his home and
15 family, among numerous other threats and setbacks, standing firm in his

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 conviction that although the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends
2 towards justice; and

3 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, a
4 13-month protest beginning in 1955, against the segregated city bus lines;
5 and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The leadership of Rev. Dr. King was instrumental in
23 bringing about landmark legislation, such as the "Civil Rights Act of
24 1964", which prohibited segregation in public accommodations and
25 facilities and banned discrimination based on race, color, or national
26 origin, and the "Voting Rights Act of 1965", which eliminated remaining
27 legal barriers to voting for disenfranchised African American voters; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. King's life and work continue to echo in our
2 lives as we strive to reach the lofty goal he set when he said, "Let us all
3 hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the
4 deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched
5 communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of
6 love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their
7 scintillating beauty."; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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