

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

H. C. R. No. 23

Representatives Brent, Robinson

**Cosponsors: Representatives Leland, West, Howse, Denson, Miller, A., Smith, K.,
Weinstein, Upchurch, Boggs, Skindell, Boyd, Brown, Crossman, Miranda, Sweeney,
O'Brien, Russo, Sobecki, Crawley, Smith, M., Ingram, Sheehy, Jarrells, Kelly, Lepore-
Hagan**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to pass and the 1
President of the United States to sign legislation to 2
designate June 19th as a national holiday, to be known 3
as Juneteenth Independence Day, in recognition of June 4
19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery 5
reached enslaved people in the southwestern states. 6

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach the 7
frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of 8
Texas and the other southwestern states, until two months after 9
Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, 10
Virginia, and more than two and one-half years after President 11
Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and 12

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major 13
General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news 14
that the Civil War had ended and that all the enslaved were 15
free; and 16

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved in the southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans from the southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 45 states and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all enslaved people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.2247 of the Revised Code designates the nineteenth day of June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS, S. Bill 475 and H. Res. 1320 of the 117th Congress, designating June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth Independence Day, were both introduced on February 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Countless thousands are assembling and marching through the streets of this nation to shine a light on the racism and the racial inequity that is still present in the United States, and that is subjected daily upon Americans of African descent; and

WHEREAS, The image of the United States as a beacon and symbol of democracy and freedom to the world, wanes under the weight of its unfinished business; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign, legislation to declare the nineteenth day of June as a federal holiday to be known as Juneteenth Independence Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives	48
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the	49
President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate,	50
the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of	51
Representatives, the President of the United States, the members	52
of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of	53
Ohio.	54