#### 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

T	o 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 englayed meonle 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	
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

H. C. R. No. 23	Page 2
As Introduced	

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved in the	17
southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth	18
Independence Day, as inspiration and encouragement for future	19
generations; and	20
WHEREAS, African Americans from the southwest have	21
continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day	22
for more than 150 years; and	23
WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in	24
the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 45 states and the	25
District of Columbia as a special day of observance in	26
recognition of the emancipation of all enslaved people in the	27
United States; and	28
WHEREAS, Section 5.2247 of the Revised Code designates the	29
nineteenth day of June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and	30
WHEREAS, S. Bill 475 and H. Res. 1320 of the 117th	31
Congress, designating June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth Independence	32
Day, were both introduced on February 25, 2021; and	33
WHEREAS, Countless thousands are assembling and marching	34
through the streets of this nation to shine a light on the	35
racism and the racial inequity that is still present in the	36
United States, and that is subjected daily upon Americans of	37
African descent; and	38
WHEREAS, The image of the United States as a beacon and	39
symbol of democracy and freedom to the world, wanes under the	40
weight of its unfinished business; now therefore be it	41
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General	42
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United	43
States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign,	44
legislation to declare the nineteenth day of June as a federal	45
holiday to be known as Juneteenth Independence Day; and be it	4 6
further	47

H. C. R. No. 23 As Introduced	
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