

1 SJR118
2 220039-1
3 By Senator Sanders-Fortier
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 07-APR-22

DECLARING THE ERA OF HEALING HISTORY IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, we are in a defining moment in United States and Alabama history; as a people, we can choose conflict or collaboration around historical monuments, as well as narratives about our history; as Alabamians we choose to embrace all of our history in truth and love for the purpose of healing together to move forward; and

WHEREAS, let us heal history: As we move to heal our history, there are long-standing principles that the founding fathers and mothers of our liberties stood firmly on, throughout the different fights for freedom, from 1776 to 1965, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, let us heal history: The principle from our great American Pledge of Allegiance, "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" is one such principle; the essence of these words are stitched through our history, from the Declaration of Independence, through our constitutional framework, to the commitment and calls of the American people; and

1 WHEREAS, let us heal history: It is in our godly
2 oneness that we will find that we have all the excellence,
3 skill, and resources we need to heal our state; and

4 WHEREAS, let us heal history: As we heal history,
5 the Alabama motto, "We Dare Defend our Rights," takes on new
6 meaning for all Alabamians, as we seek to defend each other's
7 rights as Alabamians; and

8 WHEREAS, let us heal history: Nearly 60 years ago,
9 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his prophetic
10 visionary "I have a Dream" speech in the capital of our nation
11 featuring Alabama; since that time many Alabamians and
12 organizations have worked to make the dream come true in this
13 state; the dream of both Dr. King and the Foot Soldiers is
14 known as the Beloved Community; and

15 WHEREAS, let us heal history: In the fullness of
16 time, all things can work together for the good of Alabama; in
17 this season, as we reflect on the Selma to Montgomery March of
18 57 years ago, the refrain on the Alabama capital steps was
19 "How long, not long," now let us enter into an era of healing
20 history in honor of all those who gave or risked their lives
21 for freedom's sake; and

22 WHEREAS, let us heal history: As we endeavor to heal
23 our history, we must no longer see things from the eyes of
24 conflict, but from compassion, cooperation, and collaboration;
25 we understand that seeing our history from conflict creates
26 chaos and confusion; God is not the author of confusion; the
27 better way is to embrace each other at the table of

1 brotherhood and sisterhood and to invite all God's children to
2 the table; and

3 WHEREAS, let us heal history: Healing history is to
4 finally judge each Alabamian by the content of their character
5 and acknowledge that this goes both ways, across race, status,
6 and all the things that make us different and wonderfully made
7 by our Creator; and

8 WHEREAS, let us heal history: As we endeavor to heal
9 our history, we embrace the spirit of greatness through
10 service and we take the excellence in Alabama and apply that
11 spirit to our challenges as solutions because we want for our
12 brothers and sisters what we want for ourselves; and

13 WHEREAS, let us heal history: One might ask how can
14 we heal history, when history is in the past; we can do this
15 by reframing the way we see history as something to learn
16 from, not to fear; we can acknowledge that what we do now will
17 effect 50 years from now and beyond; make choices in the light
18 of what we have learned together; and we must take this
19 knowledge and build the Alabama Beloved Community, where all
20 Alabamians are encouraged and supported to flourish; and

21 WHEREAS, let us heal history: We can learn from our
22 past to build a better present; healing history puts us in
23 touch with our true values as a state; and

24 WHEREAS, let us heal history: Now let us share our
25 history in truth and in love in a way that heals us all; we
26 encourage each man, woman, and child to learn more about our
27 collective history with one another, and in doing so, if it is

1 repentance that God leads us to, let us repent; if it is
2 forgiveness, let us forgive; if it is to be more just with one
3 another, let us act more justly; if it is humility, then let
4 us be more humble; let each of us, as we heal, follow the lead
5 of the One who created us all in His image and likeness; and

6 WHEREAS, let us heal history: Let us walk the path
7 to healing according to the holy scriptures, and undo the
8 heavy burdens...then shall thy light break forth as the
9 morning, and thine healing shall spring forth speedily, and
10 thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord
11 shall be thy rereward; and

12 WHEREAS, let us heal history: As our state has
13 impacted freedom throughout the world, people have traveled to
14 Alabama from around the world to witness the history of
15 suffrage and struggles of many communities of individuals
16 seeking equal rights, equal treatment, and equal civil
17 liberties in these United States and Alabama including, but
18 not limited to, African Americans, women of all races,
19 indigenous Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian
20 Americans, through the tumultuous Civil War and Civil Rights
21 movement in Alabama; now may they also come to see how we
22 healed ourselves with God's help and each other's commitment
23 to love one another as neighbors; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we declare this next era as
26 the era of healing history in the state, signaling the
27 commencement of the Alabama Healing History campaign, and

1 henceforth, this state shall embrace all of our history for
2 the purpose of healing as a pathway forward to a brighter
3 future for our posterity.