

By: Jones of Dallas

H.C.R. No. 104

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 260,000 Africans and their progeny
2 were enslaved in Texas in the period from 1821 through 1865; and

3 WHEREAS, Slavery was an injustice that caused African
4 Americans to suffer great hardships, both tangible and intangible,
5 including the loss of liberty and human dignity; and

6 WHEREAS, Although the achievements of African Americans in
7 overcoming the effects of slavery stand as a source of tremendous
8 inspiration, the successes of slaves and their descendants do not
9 diminish the past failure of the nation to grant these Americans
10 their birthright of equality and the civil rights that safeguard
11 freedom; and

12 WHEREAS, African American art, history, and culture reflect
13 experiences of slavery and freedom and the continual struggle for
14 full recognition of citizenship and for treatment with dignity and
15 respect; and

16 WHEREAS, There is inadequate preservation and recognition of
17 the many contributions of African Americans within American
18 society, and there is a need to heighten cultural understanding of
19 African American heritage to further enhance racial harmony; and

20 WHEREAS, An apology is an important and necessary step in the
21 process of racial reconciliation, for it represents an important
22 healing interaction and may restore damaged relationships, whether
23 between two people or between groups of people; and

24 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the Texas Legislature

1 not only to recognize June 19, 1865, as the noteworthy day when the
2 emancipation of slaves was proclaimed in Texas, but also to
3 acknowledge the historic significance of the abolition of slavery
4 and to express remorse for the legacy of slavery to all Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, The 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby
6 acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and
7 inhumanity of slavery in Texas and apologizes to African Americans
8 and to all the people of Texas for the wrongs committed against
9 their predecessors who suffered as slaves and whose legacy has
10 affected all society; and

11 WHEREAS, The 79th Legislature of the State of Texas further
12 repudiates and expresses regret for the injustices inflicted upon
13 African Americans during the era of slavery; moreover, the 79th
14 Legislature commends the efforts of reconciliation initiated by
15 organizations and individuals concerned with civil rights and
16 liberties and calls for a national initiative of reconciliation
17 among the races; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby direct the State Board of Education to examine the
20 institution of slavery, subsequent racial and economic
21 discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of that
22 history on African Americans today; the State Board of Education
23 shall further prepare for use in public schools a standardized
24 history curriculum on the institution of slavery in the United
25 States.