

# The Massachusetts General Court



## Resolutions

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

**WHEREAS**, IN THE YEAR 1868, THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED AND FORMALLY ADOPTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, THUS ESTABLISHING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP FOR NEARLY FOUR MILLION FORMER SLAVES AND EXTENDING FULL CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION TO ALL AMERICANS; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THEN PASSED THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION ON FEBRUARY 26, 1869, WHICH PROHIBITS THE DENIAL OF VOTING RIGHTS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR OR PREVIOUS CONDITION OF SERVITUDE; AND

**WHEREAS**, ON MARCH 12, 1869, THE GENERAL COURT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT AND THE COMMONWEALTH BECAME THE NINTH STATE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT BEFORE ITS FORMAL ADOPTION ON MARCH 30, 1870; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT WAS THE FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO GRANT VOTING RIGHTS TO FORMERLY DISENFRANCHISED AMERICANS AND THEREBY SET A PRECEDENT THAT, FIFTY YEARS LATER, WOULD LEAD TO THE ADOPTION OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT GRANTING UNIVERSAL VOTING RIGHTS TO AMERICAN WOMEN; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT HAS SERVED AS THE FOREMOST DEFENSE AGAINST SYSTEMIC VOTER DISFRANCHISEMENT AND, IN THIS REGARD, HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE IMPERATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965, WHICH AIMS TO ENSURE FULL VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT HEREBY COMMEMORATES THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED**, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BLACK AND LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPTED, APRIL 8, 2019.

*Robert A. DeLeo*

ROBERT A. DeLEO  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

*Steven T. James*

CLERK OF THE HOUSE

SENATE, ADOPTED IN CONCURRENCE, APRIL 8, 2019.

*Karen E. Spilka*

KAREN E. SPILKA  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

*Michael D. Hurley*

CLERK OF THE SENATE

OFFERED BY:


*Carlton Gonzalez*

REPRESENTATIVE CARLTON GONZALEZ

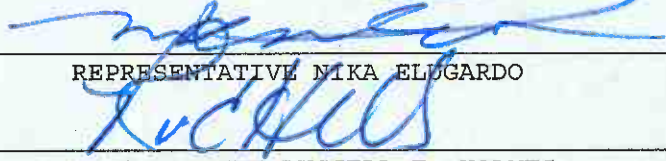
*Sonia Chang-Diaz*

SENATOR SONIA CHANG-DIAZ





REPRESENTATIVE MARCOS DEVERS



REPRESENTATIVE NIKA ELUGARDO

REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL E. HOLMES

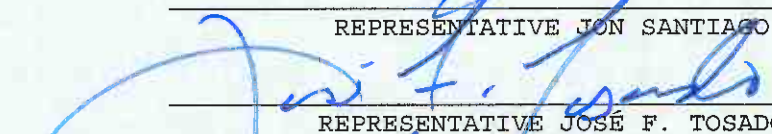


REPRESENTATIVE LIZ MIRANDA

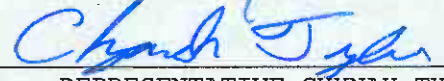
REPRESENTATIVE FRANK A. MORAN



REPRESENTATIVE JON SANTIAGO



REPRESENTATIVE JOSÉ F. TOSADO



REPRESENTATIVE CHYNAH TYLER



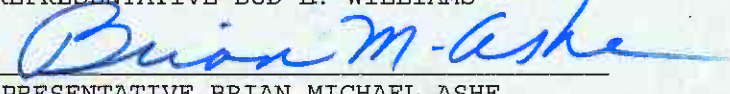
REPRESENTATIVE ANDRES X. VARGAS



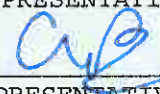
REPRESENTATIVE AARON VEGA



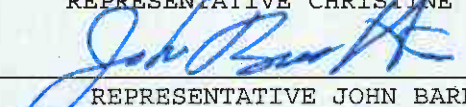
REPRESENTATIVE BUD L. WILLIAMS



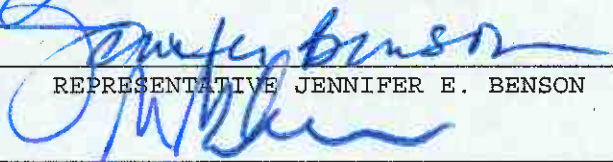
REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN MICHAEL ASHE



REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE P. BARBER



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BARRETT III

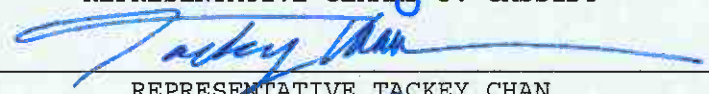


REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER E. BENSON

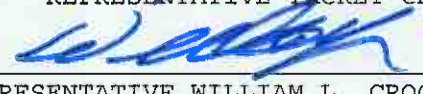
REPRESENTATIVE NATALIE M. BLAIS



REPRESENTATIVE GERARD J. CASSIDY



REPRESENTATIVE TACKEY CHAN



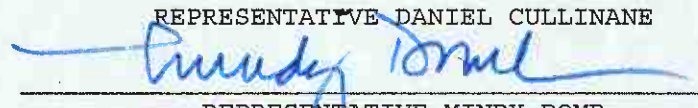
REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM L. CROCKER, JR.



REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE D. CRONIN



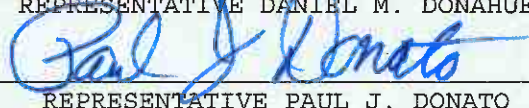
REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL CULLINANE



REPRESENTATIVE MINDY DOMB



REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL M. DONAHUE



REPRESENTATIVE PAUL J. DONATO

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REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN C. DYKEMA

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*Cynthia Stone Creem*

SENATOR CYNTHIA STONE CREEM

*Bruce E. Tarr*

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*Patrick M. O'Connor*

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