

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1835

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 60th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

WHEREAS, From the earliest times in American history, the U.S. educational system mandated separate schools for children based solely on race. In many instances, the schools for African American children were substandard facilities with out-of-date textbooks and insufficient supplies; and

WHEREAS, In 1896, in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson, the U.S. Supreme Court declared it law that "separate" but "equal" facilities be provided for African Americans. This holding necessitated separate dining facilities, restrooms, transportation, accommodations and, among other things, public education; and

WHEREAS, In the 1940s and 1950s the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) spearheaded plans to end the doctrine of "separate but equal" using public schools as a means to that end. Local leaders of the NAACP recruited African American parents in Topeka for a class action suit against the local school board; and

WHEREAS, In 1952, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court as a combination of five cases from Delaware, Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia, representing nearly 200 plaintiffs. The Court combined the cases because each sought the same relief from segregated schools for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the decision in Plessy, finding that racial segregation was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Court declared that, "...in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal,"; and

WHEREAS, The landmark ruling in Brown was a major victory for the civil rights movement and laid the foundation for shaping national and international policies on human rights; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, at the opening of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas, on the 50th anniversary of the ruling, President George W. Bush recognized its historic significance stating that, "The decision in Brown versus Board of Education did not end all segregation, did not even end school segregation for many years. The civil rights movement was still waiting on other heroes and cases and laws. Yet, all sides of the question knew that on May 17th, 1954, a line had been crossed in American history. The system of racial oppression in our country had lost its claim to legitimacy, and the rising demand for justice would not be denied.": Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas and celebrate its role as a catalyst in launching the modern civil rights movement; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1835 was sponsored by Senators Haley, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Hawk, Hensley, Holland, Kelly, Kerschen, Love, McGinn, Olson, Ostmeier, Pettey and Shultz.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.