

Whereas a recent study by the National Arts Education Data Project found that 49 percent of all students attending schools with a predominately African-American student population do not participate in school music programs;

Whereas Black students scored the lowest of all ethnicities in the most recent National Assessment for Educational Progress arts assessment;

Whereas Black students often receive a music education that does not reflect their own culture;

Whereas students who are eligible for the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) have significantly lower scores on the music portion of the National Assessment for Educational Progress arts assessment than students who are ineligible for that program, which suggests that students in low-income families are disadvantaged in the subject of music;

Whereas a study found that—

(1) nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of music ensemble students were White and middle class, and only 15 percent of those students were Black; and

(2) only 7 percent of music teacher licensure candidates were Black; and

Whereas students of color face many barriers to accessing music education and training, especially in large urban public schools: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the contributions of Black people to the musical heritage of the United States;

(B) the wide array of talented and popular Black musical artists, composers, songwriters, and musicians who are underrecognized for contributions to music;

(C) the achievements, talent, and hard work of Black pioneer artists and the obstacles that those artists overcame to gain recognition;

(D) the need for Black students to have greater access to, and participation in, culturally relevant music programs in schools across the United States; and

(E) Black History Month and Black Music Month as an important time—

(i) to celebrate the impact of the Black musical heritage on the musical heritage of the United States; and

(ii) to encourage greater access to music education so that the next generation may continue to greatly contribute to the musical heritage of the United States; and

(2) designates June 2026 as “Black Music Month”.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 780—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 19, 2026, AS “WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY” IN ORDER TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE CONTINUED NEED FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION SCREENINGS, NOVEL EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS LEADING TO A CURE, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE**

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 780

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders, a genetic condition present at birth, and a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the 2026 theme of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, “Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease”, is an immediate call to close the survival gap and push towards a universal cure;

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Charles Whitten co-founded the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America to improve research, education, and health care for SCD patients and which is now headquartered in Hanover, Maryland;

Whereas, in 1972, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act (Public Law 92-294; 86 Stat. 136), which, for the first time, provided authority to establish education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for SCD;

Whereas sickle cell trait (referred to in this preamble as “SCT”) is a gene mutation that causes a single misspelling in the DNA instructions for hemoglobin, a protein that aids in carrying oxygen in the blood, and can result in chronic complications for individuals living with SCD, including anemia, stroke, infections, organ failure, tissue damage, intense periods of pain referred to as vaso-occlusive crises, and even premature death;

Whereas SCT occurs when an individual inherits 1 copy of the sickle cell gene from 1 parent, and, although most individuals who have SCT live normal lives, when both parents have SCT, there is a 25 percent chance that any of their children will have SCD;

Whereas there are an estimated 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 individuals with SCT in the United States, with many unaware of their status;

Whereas approximately 100,000 individuals have SCD in the United States, with 1 out of every 365 African-American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births resulting in SCD, and nearly 1 out of 13 African-American babies are born with SCT;

Whereas SCD affects millions of individuals throughout the world, especially individuals of genetic descent from certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Central America, Saudi Arabia, India, and the Mediterranean basin;

Whereas the variance relating to the prevalence of SCT ranges greatly by region and demography, with overall rates as high as 40 percent in parts of Africa;

Whereas approximately 1,000 children in Africa are born with SCD each day, 50 to 80 percent of whom will die before their fifth birthday;

Whereas, in 2006, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, adopted by the United Nations in 2009, recognizing SCD as a public health priority with a call to action for each country to implement measures to tackle the disease, and in 2010, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution relating to preventing and managing birth defects, including SCD;

Whereas screening newborns for SCD is a crucial first step for families to obtain a timely diagnosis, to obtain comprehensive care, and to decrease the mortality rate for children with respect to SCD;

Whereas, in 2023, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT” or bone marrow transplant) was the only cure for SCD, and the Food and Drug Administration has since approved 2 gene therapies that have been demonstrated to cure SCD;

Whereas there is an immediate need for lifesaving therapeutics that can improve the duration and quality of life for individuals with SCD;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address SCD, which highlights the need to develop new innovative therapies and to address barriers to the equitable access of approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Society of Hematology and the SickleInAfrica Consortium, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, hosted a webinar for a joint effort to strengthen efforts to combat SCD during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

Whereas the late Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and American Society of Hematology member who founded and served as a member of the Global Sickle Cell Disease Network, was a leader in advancing the body of knowledge in SCD research, public health, and medicine and is recognized as immeasurably benefitting thousands of children worldwide; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2026, has been designated as “World Sickle Cell Awareness Day” to increase public awareness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions relating to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as “SCD”) treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for individuals living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community with respect to SCD and, in partnership with local governments, the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services with respect to SCD;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access to innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on World Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative-care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions relating to SCD;

(6) encourages the President to form a Sickle Cell Disease Interagency Group, which should include the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institute of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to work toward policies that will support equitable and appropriate access to innovative SCD therapies; and

(7) with respect to the policies described in paragraph (6), urges the interagency group described in that paragraph to consider options that not only address access to potential future curative treatments for SCD, but also address the biases that the populations most affected by SCD continue to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 781—COMMEMORATING JUNE 19, 2026, AS “JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 781

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth National Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth National Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth National Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now a Federal holiday that is celebrated in all 50 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth National Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates June 19, 2026, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth National Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth National Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5855. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5856. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5857. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5858. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5859. Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5860. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5861. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5862. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5863. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5864. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. DUREBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5865. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5866. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5867. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5868. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5869. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5870. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5871. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5872. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5873. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5874. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5875. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5876. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5877. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5878. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5879. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GALLEGGO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5880. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5881. Mr. McCORMICK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5882. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5883. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5884. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5885. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5886. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 5855.** Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 358. CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AS LOCATIONS WHERE CONTAMINATION OCCURRED AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall classify the following locations as a location where contamination occurred:

(1) On and after January 27, 1951, the Nevada Test and Training Range, including the