

House Resolution

No. 48

Introduced by Assembly Member Holden

June 19, 2014

House Resolution No. 48—Relative to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1 WHEREAS, On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 people
2 participated in the March on Washington, D.C., to demonstrate
3 their support of civil rights for African-American citizens, and the
4 mass demonstration, as well as the violent attacks on peaceful
5 demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama, in the spring of 1963,
6 galvanized support for national legislation against segregation,
7 causing a cataclysmic change in the political and social order in
8 America; and

9 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson
10 signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, legislation proposed
11 by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the most sweeping civil
12 rights legislation since Reconstruction; and

13 WHEREAS, Upon the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
14 President Johnson addressed the American public on July 2, 1964,
15 stating that the newly passed act “does not restrict the freedom of
16 any American, so long as he respects the rights of others. It does
17 not give special treatment to any citizen. ...It does say that there
18 are those who are equal before God shall now also be equal in the
19 polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and in hotels,
20 restaurants, movie theaters, and other places that provide service
21 to the public. ...This Civil Rights Act is a challenge to all of us to
22 go to work in our communities and our States, in our homes and
23 in our hearts, to eliminate the last vestiges of injustice in our
24 beloved country”; and

1 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 subsequently has
2 been amended by the Congress of the United States to extend the
3 protections of the law to disabled Americans, the elderly, and
4 women in collegiate athletics programs; and
5 WHEREAS, In 2014, the nation will commemorate the 50th
6 anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans
7 segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national
8 origin at all places of public accommodation and prohibits
9 discrimination by employers and labor unions and the use of federal
10 funds for any discriminatory program; and
11 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended legal
12 segregation, and it is fitting and appropriate that the enactment of
13 this historic legislation be commemorated in the State of California;
14 now, therefore, be it
15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
16 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 hereby be
17 commemorated and the citizens of the state be encouraged to
18 observe this important occasion in the history of the nation; and
19 be it further
20 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
21 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.