

3.25.2021

Chairman Kasper and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo.

I introduced SB 2232 to recognize Juneteenth by way of a holiday in North Dakota. Juneteenth also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day – is a holiday to recognize the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

This past summer, as a legislator, I was asked to take part in activities considering our history related to slavery and racism. In the process I learned about this special day, Juneteenth, which I am somewhat embarrassed to say I knew nothing about. I decided my role was to visit with other legislators in a bipartisan way which led to our introduction of SB 2232.

Others are here to give you the history and information about this day.

You will note the bill has an emergency clause so this holiday can be in place yet this year.

I ask for a yes vote. Establishing Juneteenth will help our citizens learn more about our history and take another step in understanding each other.

Thank you.