

March 25, 2021

Dear Chair Kasper and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

During each legislative session, you must face many painstaking decisions on everything from state budgets to public values.

Thankfully, SB 2232, which commemorates Juneteenth, is one of the easier ones.

Your DO PASS vote on this bipartisan bill would honor the emancipation of Black people from chattel slavery in this country – and would also honor every Black family that calls North Dakota home.

As you know, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration to commemorate the ending of chattel slavery in the U.S. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas, sharing the news that the war had ended and that those who had been enslaved were now free – two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed. Until this time, Union forces had not been strong or present enough in Texas to enforce the executive order. On June 19th – Juneteenth – all that changed.

Let's become the 48<sup>th</sup> state to officially honor Juneteenth. Maybe Hawaii and South Dakota will catch up soon.

Please vote DO PASS on SB 2232.

Thank you.

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