

2.11.2021

Chairman Veeda 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 celebrating 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 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.

Please give them your attention. Also, I hand out an amendment asking you to change the bill by adding 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.