



381644

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/06/2017	.	
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The Committee on Rules (Campbell) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete line 126

and insert:

May as "Haitian Heritage Month" and "Haitian American Heritage
Month," May 18 as "Haitian

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 4 - 40

and insert:



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12 Independence Day," the month of May as "Haitian
13 Heritage Month" and "Haitian American Heritage Month,"
14 May 18 as "Haitian Flag Day," and the month of June as
15 "Caribbean American Heritage Month."
16

17 WHEREAS, the United States of America has thrived as a
18 country of immigrants, united by common values and the promise
19 of a better tomorrow, and

20 WHEREAS, the Republic of Haiti, an island nation located in
21 the West Indies on the western third of the Island of
22 Hispaniola, declared its independence from French colonial rule
23 on January 1, 1804, following a slave revolt under the
24 leadership of Generals Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean-Jacques
25 Dessalines, and Alexandre Pétion, becoming the first and only
26 nation created from a successful slave rebellion, and

27 WHEREAS, Haiti was the first independent nation in Latin
28 America and the first postcolonial independent nation led by
29 blacks in the world, and

30 WHEREAS, as educators, authors, community leaders,
31 activists, athletes, artists, musicians, and politicians,
32 Haitian Americans have made their mark in every facet of society
33 and have contributed to the betterment and diversity of this
34 nation, and

35 WHEREAS, the close proximity of Haiti to American shores,
36 in conjunction with our common bond of mutual values and
37 commitment to democracy, ensures lasting comity of nations and
38 continued trade and diplomatic relations, and

39 WHEREAS, an estimated 1.5 million persons of Haitian
40 descent now live throughout this nation, and



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41 WHEREAS, the United States and Haiti share a history of
42 freedom, a common belief in human rights, and diverse, complex,
43 and resilient peoples who have impacted the world through
44 vibrant cultures, democracy, and a wealth of talent and
45 achievement, and

46 WHEREAS, Haitian Independence Day is globally acknowledged
47 and annually celebrated on January 1 as an affirmation of
48 equality, freedom, and the abolition of slavery, and

49 WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month is a jubilant celebration
50 in the United States, embracing Haitian heritage and culture,
51 and

52 WHEREAS, first celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts, in
53 1998, Haitian Heritage Month is observed nationwide in the month
54 of May from Florida to New York with parades, festivals, and
55 school activities, and

56 WHEREAS, the importance of Haitian Heritage Month is
57 exemplified by South Florida Congressman Kendrick B. Meek's
58 introduction of bills in the United States House of
59 Representatives in 2004 and 2006 to recognize the month of May
60 as Haitian Heritage Month; by a letter from former President
61 George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, sent in May 2005,
62 which congratulated the Haitian-American community on the
63 occasion of the heritage month; and by the organization of a
64 celebration at the White House that same year, and