

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6014

A RESOLUTION commending the passage of the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act.

WHEREAS, On December 29, 2022, the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023; and

WHEREAS, The program authorizes grants and technical assistance for the identification, preservation and restoration of African-American burial grounds; and

WHEREAS, African-American burial grounds are sacred spaces, which are often located in unknown, unmarked, abandoned or unmaintained locations; and

WHEREAS, African-American civil war soldiers are laid to rest at many African-American burial grounds, where their headstones have tragically been stolen or vandalized; and

WHEREAS, African-American burial grounds are representative of the historic unequal treatment that African-Americans endured from life through death; and

WHEREAS, African-American burial grounds are often discovered before infrastructure developments, leading to halted construction projects and severe emotional distress within local communities; and

WHEREAS, The program provides African-American burial grounds with increased public awareness and crucial grant funding for preservation, especially before development projects catastrophically and irreparably damage these sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, African-American burial grounds serve to honor the Nation's ancestors; and

WHEREAS, Descendants of those buried in African-American burial grounds deserve the right to visit these sites to their pay respects; and

WHEREAS, African-American burial grounds pass the Nation's history from generation to generation; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is home to Old Quindaro Cemetery and other historic African-American burial grounds.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loretta Elsenia Norman, Mr. Michael Summers, Mr. Anthony Hope and Mr. Luther Smith are descendants of individuals who utilized the Underground Railroad and are buried at the Quindaro Cemetery: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:
That we commend the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program.

House Resolution No. 6014 was sponsored by Representative Marvin Robinson

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.