

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor the Congressional Black Caucus for fifty years of dedicated leadership and service to African Americans, the nation, and the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the Congressional Black Caucus (“CBC”) was founded in February 1971, to form a more unified organization among black legislators;

WHEREAS, the 13 founding members of the CBC are Shirley A. Chisholm (D-N.Y.), William L. Clay, Sr. (D-Mo.), George W. Collins (D-Ill.), John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.), Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D-Mich.), Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.), Ralph H. Metcalfe (D-Ill.), Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. (D-Pa.), Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.), Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.);

WHEREAS, since 1971, the CBC has been committed to using its full Constitutional power, statutory authority, and the financial resources of the federal government to ensure that African Americans and other marginalized communities in the United States have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream;

WHEREAS, the CBC is often called the “Conscience of the Congress” for being the first to stand up and speak out about issues that Congress needs to examine or reexamine;

WHEREAS, the CBC currently has a historic 56 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, representing more than 82 million Americans, including more than 17 million African Americans;

WHEREAS, Washington D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been a member of the CBE since 1991, and currently serves as the CBC’s senior most member;

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (“CBCF”) was established as a non-partisan research institute by members of CBC to promote African Americans' involvement in the national political process;

37 WHEREAS, the CBCF holds an annual conference in Washington, D.C., attracting
38 thought leaders, legislators, and thousands of attendees to the District, to engage on issues
39 relating to economic development, civil and social justice, and public health and education;
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41 WHEREAS, in 2008, then U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) was elected President of
42 the United States, making him the first and only African American, member of the CBC, and
43 member of a minority congressional caucus to be elected to the nation's highest office; and
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45 WHEREAS, in this fiftieth year and beyond, the CBC continues its commitment to
46 empower African Americans and other marginalized communities, by pursuing a policy agenda
47 that includes outreach and engagement, fighting inequitable policies relating to ballot access and
48 healthcare, and promoting economic empowerment.
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50 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
51 resolution may be cited as the "Congressional Black Caucus Recognition Resolution of 2021".
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53 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Congressional
54 Black Caucus for fifty years of dedicated service to African Americans, the nation, and the
55 District of Columbia.
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57 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.