

STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, Carter G. Woodson, known as “the Father of Black History Month,” announced “Negro History Week” in America, which was later expanded to a month and changed to “Black History Month” by President Gerald Ford; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month was created in 1976 to “*seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;*” and

**WHEREAS**, 2017 marks the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision of the Dred Scott case which declared African Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be American citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision, widely recognized as one of the worst in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court, marked a turning point in the battle against the slavery of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of this year’s Black History Month is “The Crisis in Black Education;” and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time to remember the lessons and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stand against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the important cause of civil rights and strengthened families and communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, We, John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio**, do hereby recognize February 2017 as

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

throughout Ohio and we encourage all Ohioans to reflect on the past successes and challenges of African Americans as well as their significant contributions to the success of our state and nation. May we strive to improve society so that we may live up to the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality.

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2017;

John R. Kasich  
Governor

Mary Taylor  
Lieutenant Governor

