

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE



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SENATOR Tom Begich  
SENATE DISTRICT J

## **Sponsor Statement: Senate Resolution 8 - Proclaiming February 2018 as Black History Month**

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established a Negro History Week to coincide with the birth week shared by President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist leader Fredrick Douglass. In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded February to Black History Month in honor of the nation's bicentennial. African Americans have made a tremendous contribution to building this State and ensuring it thrives. In order to honor that contribution and ensure that the history of African Americans is remembered and celebrated in this country.

Last year, the Senate passed SR 3, a Resolution honoring Black History Month. This bill will give the Legislature the opportunity to continue to highlight the impact African Americans have had both on our history and will have on our future.

I respectfully request your support of Senate Resolution 8.