

**From:** [Ashleigh](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Let's Do This!  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023 5:43:36 PM

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# **I am writing this letter in support of Senate bill 22. To make Juneteenth a state holiday.**

Juneteenth is of the utmost importance as it signified the end of slavery and indentured servitude among Black folks that built this country, The United States of America . Juneteenth is not only Black History. Juneteenth is American History and needs to be recognized as a holiday. I would ask that this a bill that needs to be passed .

Respectfully,  
Ashleigh Gaines  
Anchorage NAACP  
ACTSO chair

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Ms. Dawn Bundick](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Let's Do This!  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023 3:08:32 PM

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Hi Besse,

This is Dawn Bundick. I want to offer a letter of support for this bill.

My name is Dawn Bundick and I am a lifelong Alaskan and I am asking for your support of SB22. This day is recognized in other jurisdictions as holidays and President Biden has signed the bill enacting this a holiday in all States and I am asking that this be a holiday recognized in our State of Alaska for all governments, non-governmental agencies, etc..

Thank you,

Dawn Bundick  
NAACP Member  
N.O.B.L.E. Member  
VFW Auxiliary President  
American Legion Treasurer  
Union President/Member

**From:** [Jasmin Smith](#)  
**To:** [Besse Odom](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Juneteenth Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:55:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image0.png](#)

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> My name is Jasmin Smith and I am a lifelong Alaskan, Business Owner, Community coordinator, and president of Juneteenth Anchorage, and one of the founders of the Juneteenth Alaska Foundation.

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> I am also including Sophia Metters, a lifelong Alaskan, business, owner, nonprofit leader, and Juneteenth and Anchorage vice president.

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> I am writing in support of Senator Elvi Gray Jackson's efforts to make Juneteenth an official state of Alaska paid holiday.

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> I can start this testimony by stressing how important Juneteenth is or by stating how Juneteenth is American history but I want to go deeper and local.

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> Growing up African-American in Alaska can prove challenging and incredibly lonely at times. Having a deep love for the State But often times feeling like you do not fit in or know your place was a paramount theme of my childhood. I was raised in Eagle River Alaska where the number of African Americans was extremely low, and I found myself being exciting about going to Anchorage and various festivities that uplifted my experience, lenses, and culture.

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> One of the highlights of my childhood was learning about and celebrating Juneteenth. Not just at a national level, but a statewide and local level as well. I think back to the various activities that shaped my mindset today and the leaders and the elders that came before me who taught me all about Juneteenth and its importance. Spending countless days outside learning our stories, learning our struggles, and learning how we overcame.

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> Being taught that the core principles and theme was freedom, celebration, overcoming, and sense of self. Understanding what that meant and looked like for so many black Alaskans from our past and present. Understanding that the desire for freedom is universal, and there are many countries across the globe who celebrate their freedom, who celebrate overcoming, and who celebrated making it through adversity and coming out with a strong and beautiful culture. To me and many others that warrants being proud.

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> Although the topic of slavery is painful and complicated, it is still an important part of our country's history that needs to be discussed, and remembered as a cautionary tale. As a reminder of how far we have come and as a reminder, if we do not work together and put in place the needed supports and education and legislation, we run the risk of repeating our past mistakes.

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> We have an incredible opportunity to make it right and create a holiday that allows for thoughtful discussion, celebration, and a deeper collective understanding of our country and even our states complicated history.

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> Adding this holiday will be a significant step in the right direction for not only our state workers, but our community members as a whole. It will show solidarity, inclusion, forward, thinking, and a willingness to have tough (but needed) conversations.

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> I hope that this committee supports senator Elvi Gray Jackson's efforts because it is important and it is needed. What an amazing celebration and day our community could be having this year by knowing Juneteenth is a federal holiday, municipal holiday, and state of Alaska holiday.

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> If you need anything else from me, please do not hesitate to ask. I will support in any way possible and know that our organization and committee does too.

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> Jasmin Smith

> Juneteenth Anchorage President

> National Juneteenth observation foundation, Alaska delegate

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> Sophia Metters

> Juneteenth Anchorage Vice President

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> 907-230-4968

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**DREAM** LIKE **MARTIN**  
**LEAD** LIKE **HARRIET**  
**FIGHT** LIKE **MALCOLM**  
**DARE** LIKE **SHIRLEY**  
**THINK** LIKE **GARVEY**  
**WRITE** LIKE **MAYA**  
**SPEAK** LIKE **FREDERICK**  
**INSPIRE** LIKE **OBAMA**  
**EDUCATE** LIKE **W.E.B.**  
**BELIEVE** LIKE **THURGOOD**  
**CHALLENGE** LIKE **ROSA**  
**WIN** LIKE **KAMALA**

**JUNETEENTH**

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