

April 4, 2023

Erin McKenna  
Committee Clerk  
RI State House  
83 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

Greetings House Committee:

H5380 – For Juneteenth being a state holiday

Juneteenth marks the day when news of freedom from slavery reached Texas, the last state to be liberated from bondage. This day has come to be known as Juneteenth, and it is celebrated by many states in the US as a state holiday.

Celebrating Juneteenth is an important way to recognize the legacy of slavery and celebrate freedom from it. It's also an opportunity to educate people about the history behind this day, which can help create greater understanding and empathy for those who were affected by slavery. By making Juneteenth a state holiday, we can ensure that people are aware of its significance and that its importance isn't forgotten.

Juneteenth is an important day in American history, and it should be celebrated as such. By making Juneteenth a state holiday, we are recognizing our nation's history and honoring those who fought for freedom from slavery. It is also an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come since then and how far we still need to go in order to ensure that all people are truly free.

Celebrating freedom from slavery is an important part of our nation's history and culture, and it should be recognized on a state level.

Thank you,

Jill Halimah Van Leesten, LCSW, ED.S.