



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Smith V

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing Young Black
2 Males Legislative Day on April 12, 2017.

3 *Whereas, March 31, 2015, marked the first Young Black*
4 *Males Legislative Day when 250 students from around the state*
5 *gathered at the Statehouse to show that they can have a voice*
6 *in their government and to show the Indiana General Assembly*
7 *that young black lives matter;*

8 *Whereas, Black males are six times more likely to be*
9 *incarcerated than their white male counterparts. Blacks made*
10 *up 9.5 percent of the population in Indiana, but 33 percent of*
11 *the inmates in the Indiana Department of Correction in 2015.*
12 *African-American males comprise over 75 percent of the*
13 *defendants in Indianapolis;*

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1 *Whereas, Indiana's percentage of black male students who*
2 *experienced out-of-school suspensions was 27 percent in 2015,*
3 *and was tied for the second highest percentage among all*
4 *states. In Marion County, the number of out-of-school*
5 *suspensions represented more than 60 percent of the student*
6 *population at various schools. Attendance was the fifth most*
7 *common reason for students being suspended. The high school*
8 *graduation rate for African-American males is 38 percent,*
9 *while the graduation rate for white males is 70 percent;*

10 *Whereas, Young African-American males are predominantly*
11 *caught in a cycle of poverty and low expectations, which needs*
12 *to be recognized. Rectifying this cycle must be prioritized at all*
13 *levels of government. We must invest in the future of these*
14 *young men. It is time to make it clear that black male lives*
15 *matter; and*

16 *Whereas, Young black males are concerned about their*
17 *plight and organized this day to highlight the issues they face:*
18 *Therefore,*

19 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
20 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

21 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives does hereby
22 mark Young Black Males Legislative Day on April 12, 2017.

