



## H.CON.RES. 372 – SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH AND TO HONOR THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS THAT AFRICAN AMERICAN SINGERS AND MUSICIANS HAVE MADE TO THE UNITED STATES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 372 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI) on June 12, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 372 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 23, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 372 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Supports the goals and ideals of Black Music Month;
- Honors the outstanding contributions that African-American singers, musicians, composers, and producers have made to this country;
- Calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the majesty, vitality, and importance of African-American music; and
- Requests and authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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### BACKGROUND

African American musicians have contributed to the creation and development of several mainstream musical genres, including jazz, blues, and gospel. Many African American musicians have been recognized and awarded for their contributions to music by musical institutions such as the Grammys.

On May 31, 2008, President Bush proclaimed June 2008 as Black Music Month. In his Proclamation, President Bush stated: "For generations, African-American artists have created music that communicates across racial boundaries and expresses both joy and sorrow. When facing the cruelty of slavery and injustice, African Americans lifted spirituals to the heavens, bringing comfort to troubled souls. These timeless declarations of hope and faith evolved into the more modern genres of gospel, blues, ragtime, and jazz, and they are given voice in the musical genius of Scott Joplin, Marian Anderson, Eubie Blake, and Mahalia Jackson. During the Civil Rights era, African-American musicians such as Duke Ellington, Muddy Waters, and Ruth Brown conveyed the struggles of their communities while bringing people of all backgrounds together. Today, this music continues to inspire America's citizens and advance its creative spirit."

[Proclamation about Black Music Month 2008 by President Bush](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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