

**Resolution of the North Carolina Martin Luther King Jr. Commission
Affirming the Value of Justice and Fairness in Public Education, State and
Local Government**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is dedicated to promoting the ideals of justice, equality, and community embodied by the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King believed that “the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education,” and he recognized public education as a cornerstone for building a just and equitable society;

WHEREAS, Dr. King’s vision for America included the full and honest teaching of history, understanding that confronting our past is necessary to build a future where all individuals are judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and

WHEREAS, the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are the most recent iteration of a policy framework fundamental to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background, have equal opportunities to thrive and contribute, and that our public institutions reflect and serve the needs of all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, DEI programs within government and public education have demonstrated tangible benefits, including improved public service delivery, enhanced innovation, increased trust, and a more representative workforce; and

WHEREAS, efforts by the NC General Assembly to restrict or eliminate DEI initiatives in public education, state and local government undermine the autonomy of local communities and threaten progress toward justice and equality;

WHEREAS, the pursuit of DEI is a continuous journey that requires ongoing commitment, education, and collaboration, in keeping with Dr. King’s legacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission:

- Affirms the intrinsic value of diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential principles for building a just and equitable society;
- Recognizes the proven benefits of DEI programs within government and public education and encourages their continued implementation and improvement;
- Expresses concern regarding any legislative or administrative actions that would diminish or eliminate DEI efforts in public education, state or local government, as such actions are contrary to Dr. King’s vision and the ongoing pursuit of justice for all;

- Recommends a collaborative approach between state and local governments, educational institutions, community organizations, and other stakeholders to develop and implement effective DEI strategies;
- Encourages ongoing dialogue and education to promote understanding and address concerns related to DEI, including the full and truthful teaching of history;
- Commits to working with policymakers and community leaders to advance the principles of justice, equality, and inclusion for all North Carolinians, in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Governor of North Carolina, and other relevant stakeholders.

Adopted on Monday May 12, 2025 by the following quorum of Commissioners:

*Tiffany Tuma
Catherine Williamson-Hardy
Marcus R. Bass
Phyllis Mack Horton
Resha Peregrino-Brimah
Mildred Christmas
Dr. Charles Johnson
Cheryl Hart*