



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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Director, Governmental Affairs

September 8, 2022

Hon. Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1655 (Jones-Sawyer) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Judicial Council respectfully requests your signature on AB 1655, which adds June 19th, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of California state holidays and requires that courts be closed in observance of this day as a judicial holiday.

Juneteenth has been celebrated on June 19th since 1866 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration began in Texas, but it has spread throughout the United States to not only commemorate the end of slavery but also be a day to honor the significant contributions of African Americans to our society.

Currently, 48 states, the federal government, and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or observance. More recently, a number of private companies as well as several other states and local governments have established Juneteenth as a paid holiday. In 2020, Virginia and New York made Juneteenth a paid state holiday, and the states of Washington, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Illinois followed suit in 2021. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation immediately making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

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Judge Marla O. Anderson, Chair of the Judicial Council's Legislation Committee and Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey made the following remarks in support of AB 1655:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which takes the historic step of making Juneteenth a California state holiday to commemorate the final end to slavery in the United States. As we observe Black History Month, it is particularly meaningful to support this bill's important goal of permanently setting aside June 19th as a day to celebrate not only African American freedom in this country, but also recognize the integral and significant contributions of Black Americans to our nation and the state of California. A Juneteenth holiday provides the opportunity for all Californians and Americans to commemorate the importance of freedom and inclusion.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 1655.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/jh

cc: Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Akilah Weber, M.D., Member of the Assembly
Hon. Dave Cortese, Member of the Senate
Hon. Mia Bonta, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Steven Bradford, Member of the Senate
Hon. Jim Cooper, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Ken Cooley, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Joaquin Arambula, M.D., Member of the Assembly
Hon. Miguel Santiago, Member of the Assembly
Hon. James C. Ramos, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Robert Rivas, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Adrin Nazarian, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Isaac Bryan, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Mike Gipson, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Jose Medina, Member of the Assembly
Hon. Kevin Mullin, Member of the Assembly

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Hon. Lori D. Wilson, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Chris Holden, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Sydney Kamlager, Member of the Senate

Hon. Maria Durazo, Member of the Senate

Hon. Monique Limón, Member of the Senate

Hon. Richard Pan, Member of the Senate

Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California

Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California