

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 218
(A-24)

Introduced by: Michigan
Subject: Designation of Descendants of Enslaved Africans in America
Referred To: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, the designation of African American and Black has been expanded to include any
2 person who immigrated from Africa or Caribbean countries and obtained American citizenship at
3 any point in recent history; and
4
5 Whereas, since 2003 the United States Supreme Court, ruled the definition of "Black" included
6 every person who identifies as Black on a census form including people who check the box for
7 Black and any other racial or ethnic category such as white, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino, which
8 the federal government considers to be an ethnicity that can be of any race; and
9
10 Whereas, anyone Black or White who was born in Africa, immigrated to the United States, and
11 legally becomes an American citizen is considered an African American (i.e., Elon Musk); and
12
13 Whereas, the number of immigrants entering the United States legally rose from 3.3 million in the
14 1960s to a record 7.3 million in the 1980s; and during the 1990s, some 900,000 Black immigrants
15 came from the Caribbean; another 400,000 came from Africa; still many others came from Europe,
16 Pacific Rim, Arab and Asian countries; and
17
18 Whereas, today, nearly one in ten Black Americans is an immigrant or the child of an immigrant in
19 the United States; and
20
21 Whereas, the "Intelligent" survey found 34 percent of white students who applied to colleges and
22 universities falsely claimed they were a racial minority on their application; 81 percent of students
23 who faked minority status did so to improve their chances of getting accepted and 50 percent did it
24 to get minority-focused financial aid; and
25
26 Whereas, the "Intelligent" survey found that 3 in 4, or 77 percent, of white applicants who faked
27 minority status on their applications were accepted to those colleges; and
28
29 Whereas, Descendants of Enslaved Africans in America are the only people in U.S. history
30 classified as nonhuman and property, to undergo chattel slavery, and to be deemed by the U.S.
31 constitution 3/5 of a human, according to the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments; and
32
33 Whereas, the Descendants of Enslaved Africans in America are the only people for whom it was
34 illegal to attend school or learn how to read and write in the United States; and
35
36 Whereas, it is important to disaggregate data to make sure everyone is recognized and that the
37 data influencing policies, programs, and solutions is accurate; therefore be it
38
39 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association work with appropriate organizations including,
40 but not limited to, the Association of American Medical Colleges to adopt and define the term
41 Descendants of Enslaved Africans in America and separate it from the generic terms African
42 American and Black in glossaries and on medical school applications. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: To Be Determined

Received: 4/23/2024

REFERENCES

Bibliography: Evidence of Non-African Americans Claiming to be African Americans for personal gain:

1. American Medical Association. New AMA policy recognizes racism as a public health threat. American Medical Association. November 16, 2020. Accessed January 16, 2023. <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/new-ama-policy-recognizes-racism-public-health-threat>.
2. Vijay Chokal-Ingam. Why I faked being black for med school. New York Post. April 12, 2015, 5:05am. Viewed February 6, 2023
3. Leah Asmelash. A White professor says she has been pretending to be Black for her entire professional career. CNN. Updated 11:59 AM EDT, Fri September 4, 2020
4. Colleen Flaherty. More White Lies. Jessica Krug resigns from George Washington as a graduate student from her alma mater also admits to being dishonest about racial identity. Inside Higher Ed. September 10, 2020
5. Colleen Flaherty. Feeling the Need to Defend Your Credentials Why did Elizabeth Warren divulge her genetic test results, which show she is in fact part Native American, while simultaneously insisting that she's always been evaluated professionally as a white person? Inside Higher Ed. October 16, 2018
6. Colleen Flaherty. Passing in the Classroom. Academics weigh in on the curious case of Rachel Dolezal, a white woman who allegedly passed as a black instructor of African-American studies for five years. Inside Higher Ed. June 15, 2015
7. Scott Jaschik. Professor Answers Charges of Faking Cherokee Status. Inside Higher Ed. July 13, 2015
8. Wanda Thompson. How White Women On Instagram Are Profiting Off Black Women. Blackfishing. Paper Magazine. 14 November 2018. Internet February 6, 2023
9. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press. Cultural Appropriation: the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture.
10. Maha Ikram Cherid. "Ain't Got Enough Money to Pay Me Respect": Blackfishing, Cultural Appropriation, and the Commodification of Blackness. Maha Ikram Cherid <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2768-4698> maha.cherid@mail.mcgill.ca View all authors and affiliations Volume 21, Issue 5 <https://doi.org/10.1177/15327086211029357> Internet February 6, 2023

Evidence of the invention of Race as a Matter of Politics and Not Science

1. Barzun, J (1965). Race: A Study in superstition. NY:Harper
2. Ben-Jochanan, Y. (1972). Cultural genocide in the black and African studies curriculum. NY: Alkebu-Lan Books
3. Benedict, R. (1959). Race: Science and Politics. NY: Viking
4. Biddis, M.D. (1970). Father of racist ideology: The social and political thought of Count Gobineau. NY: Weinriht and Talley
5. Chase, A. (1977). The Legacy of Malthus: The social costs of the new scientific racism. NY: Alfred A. Knopf
6. Gregory, D. (1971). No more Lies: The myth and reality of American history. NY: Harper and Row
7. Gossett, T. F. (1973). Race: The history of an idea in America. NY: Schoken
8. Hodges, J. L., Struckmann, D. K. and Trost, L. D. (1975). Cultural bases of racism and group oppression: An examination of traditional "Western" concepts, values and institutional structures which support racism, sexism and elitism Berkeley: Two Riders Press, Berkeley, CA 94704
9. Montagu, A. (1974) Man's most dangerous myth: The fallacy of race. NY
10. Stoddard, L (1971). The rising tide of color against white world supremacy. Westport, Connecticut: Negro University Press. (First published 1920)
11. Weinreich, M. (1946). Hitler's professors: The part of scholarship in Germany's crimes against the Jewish people. NY: Yiddish Scientific Institute-YIVO 12. Wobogo, V. (1976). Diop's two cradle theory and the origin of white racism. Black books Bulletin, 4(4), pp. 20-37

Definition of African American(s)

1. African Americans are an ethnic group consisting of Americans with partial or total ancestry from sub-Saharan Africa. The term "African American" generally denotes descendants of enslaved Africans who are from the United States (Ref)
2. The glossary that is available on the AAMC FACTS website, as well as the FACTS tables that display the full race/ethnicity response options does not include DOESAA: FACTS Glossary: <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/interactive-data/facts-glossary> Example FACTS Table with response options: <https://www.aamc.org/media/6046/download?attachment>
3. AAMC DATA FACTS TABLE 12-A of the freshman class acceptees for medical schools in the United States in 2021: 456 African Americans, who are not distinguished as immigrant or non-immigrant; 203 individuals indicating more than 1 Black or African American response, which implies an immigrant status or admixture; 33 "other Black or African American" which implies immigrant status.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Racism as a Public Health Threat H-65.952

1. Our AMA acknowledges that, although the primary drivers of racial health inequity are systemic and structural racism, racism and unconscious bias within medical research and health care delivery have caused and continue to cause harm to marginalized communities and society as a whole.
2. Our AMA recognizes racism, in its systemic, cultural, interpersonal, and other forms, as a serious threat to public health, to the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to appropriate medical care.

3. Our AMA encourages the development, implementation, and evaluation of undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education programs and curricula that engender greater understanding of: (a) the causes, influences, and effects of systemic, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal racism; and (b) how to prevent and ameliorate the health effects of racism.

4. Our AMA: (a) supports the development of policy to combat racism and its effects; and (b) encourages governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations to increase funding for research into the epidemiology of risks and damages related to racism and how to prevent or repair them.

5. Our AMA will work to prevent and combat the influences of racism and bias in innovative health technologies.

DRAFT